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LIST OF ACRONYMS

5MHAP	Five Million Hectares Afforestation Programme
5MHRP	Five Million Hectare of Reforestation Project
ARCBC	ASEAN Regional Center for Biodiversity Conservation
ASEAN	The Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASOEN	ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment
BD	Biological diversity
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CITES	Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species
COP	Conference of Parties
CRIC	Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
DANIDA	Danish Development Assistance Agency
FIPI	Forest Inventory and Planning Institute
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
FSIV	Forestry Science Institute of Viet Nam
FSSP&P	Forest Sector Support Programme and Partnership
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GMS	Greater Mekong Sub-region
GSO	General Statistical Office of Viet Nam
HEPAP	Hunger Eradication and Poverty Alleviation Programme
IET	International Emission Trading
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
JI	Joint implementation
KP	Kyoto Protocol To The United Nations Framework Convention On Climate Change
LMO	Living modified organism
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MOFI	Ministry of Fisheries
MOI	Ministry of Industry
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MOST	Ministry of Science and Technology
MOSTE	Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
MRC	Mekong River Commission
NAP	National Action Programme
NAPE	National Action Programme of Environment
NCB	National Coordination Body
NFP	National Focal Point
NIMM	National Institute of Medicinal Materials

ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development
OG	Office of Government
RAP/SRAP	Regional/Sub-Regional Action Programme
STAG	Science & Technology Advisory Group
TPN	Thematic Programme Network
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCOD	United Nations Conference on Desertification
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VEPA	Viet Nam Environment Protection Agency
WB	World Bank
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The project “National Self Capacity Assessment for Global Environmental Management” initiated in October 2004. The primary goal of the NCSA is to identify and determine the nature of critical capacity constraints and priority capacity needs faced by Vietnam with respect to the global environment taking into account the three Rio Conventions (UNCBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD) and associated thematic areas of biodiversity, climate change and desertification/ land degradation.

Viet Nam’s national report for global environmental management summaries the achievements, capacity constraints and capacity needs for the implementation of 3 Rio Convention (UNCBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD). The report also identifies the main cross-cutting capacity issues and capacity needs for all 3 Rio Conventions and presents the strategic action plan for the fulfillment of 3 Rio Conventions.

Viet Nam has attained significant achievements for the implementation of 03 Rio Convention. Institutional framework for the implementation of MEAs has been developed. The strategies for environmental protection has been promulgated such as the National Orientation Strategy for Sustainable Development in Vietnam (Vietnam Agenda 21), National Strategy for Environmental Protection until 2010 and vision toward 2020 (2004), Strategy for Forestry development in 2001-2010 (2002); Strategy for management of the protected area system during 2003-2010, GHG mitigation strategy in forestry sector, strategy for development of transport sectors, etc. In addition, legal framework related to the implementation of the three Rio conventions has been formed such as the Law on Environmental Protection (2005), Law on Forest Development and Protection (2004), Law on Land (2003), Law on Water Resources (1998), Law on Fishery, etc. which significant contributed for the implementation of MEAs in Viet Nam

Viet Nam has established focal points for 03 Rio Conventions: MONRE is the focal point for UNCBD and UNFCCC and MARD is the focal point for UNCCD. The focal point has the overall responsibilities which relates to the rights and obligations of Parties of the Conventions and Protocols.

The financial resources have been mobilized for the implementation of the MEAs, including the state budget and ODA sources.

Promotion and awareness enhancement also has attained significant achievements which identified as the priority task in the strategic documents of Viet Nam such as the Agenda 21, National Strategy for Environmental Protection until 2010 and vision toward 2020.

At present, Viet Nam has been implementing a programme of biological diversity awareness enhancement for 2001-2010. Viet Nam has also invested in

and development of a system of universities, research institutes on BD and natural resources, energy, forest protection and development, etc. Education and training also implemented through training course, workshop and information exchange.

International Environmental Information Network (MERCURE/ UNEPNet) had been established and the Viet Nam Protection Agency (VEPA), MONRE is assigned to be directly responsible for supervision and management of Hanoi MERCURE Station which has been operating since the beginning of 1998. At the present, Viet Nam has been able to exploit, exchange and share information with all sources of environmental information globally.

In order to meet scientific and technical requirements specified in articles relating to science and scientific advisory of the Conventions, Viet Nam has conducted the inventory of biodiversity in national parks and protected areas. There have been many efforts in doing researches on specious and rare fauna and flora species that have been in the brink of imminent extinction. BD inventory of traditional fauna and flora species has also been conducted. Viet Nam has also conduct the study on hydrometeorology, renewable energy, GHG emission inventory, forest resource inventory, etc.

With the support of Forest Sector Support Program and Partnership (FSSP&P), MEAs Network and regional forestry network has been established to support the implementation of MEAs in Viet Nam

However, there are a lot of existing capacity constraints to fulfill the obligations of 3 Rio Conventions. Capacity constraints which relates to the implementation of UNCBD are as following: institutional and legal framework is incomplete; efficiency of conservation measures is not high; communication and awareness enhancement are not effective enough, information exchange is restricted, lack of suitable financial and investment mechanism for research and biodiversity conservation. Capacity constraints which relates to the implementation of UNFCCC are as following: institutional and legal framework is incomplete; research on measures to response and adapt with climate change is restricted; communication and awareness enhancement are not effective enough; development of the portfolio of potential projects and international cooperation are restricted. Capacity constraints which relates to the implementation of UNCCD are as following: institutional and legal framework is incomplete; lack of harmonization between conservation and development; capacity for natural resource management is restricted; lack of information system for planning, monitoring and forecasting the desertification impacts; lack of technical cooperation for implementation of programme/projects on combat desertification; lack of financial resources and the utilization of resources is not high.

In general, the cross-capacity constraints which relates with the implementation of three Conventions are as following: low knowledge and awareness on the three Conventions; development and implementation of policies,

plans, programmes and projects related to the three Conventions are not effective; Coordination between the related ministries, sectors, between central and local agencies is not strong enough; Information, data collection and management are still weak; the monitoring and assessment of the activity results are still formal

The report also propose the action plan for global environmental management to strengthen the capacity for the implementation of MEAs or the capacity for global environmental management of Viet Nam.

The national report is a scientific study produced by team efforts of both national and international consultants and Vietnam NCSA project team. However, the collection and compilation of information may be insufficient. Therefore, we hope to receive comments from all readers so that the report becomes more complete and the capacity to nationally legalize the international conventions in Vietnam is to be strengthened.

Ha Noi, June 2006

NCSA PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT

PART I: INTRODUCTION – GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT CONTEXT AND THE NATIONAL CAPACITY SELF-ASSESSMENT (NCSA) PROCESS IN VIETNAM

1 Global environmental issues

Our world today is challenged by numerous environmental problems. Deforestation, overexploitation of biological resources, competitive land use and poor land management, and pollution of air, water and land resources are some of the key environmental problems.

The wide range of environmental problems and concerns is manifested largely within the broad areas of biological diversity, climate change and desertification or land degradation. The human race has applied growing knowledge and skills to manipulate nature to meet changing human needs. With modernization and globalization, consumption patterns have changed and demand on biological resources has increased rapidly. We are threatened by the irreplaceable loss of many species and genes and the deterioration of ecosystems' ability to meet human needs.

Human-induced climate change is the greatest global environmental challenge that the world faces today as a result of increased concentration of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere over the years.

The extraction and use of energy for electricity and heat, manufacture and construction, transportation, and other fuel combustion is said to account for nearly 80 percent of the total GHG emission. Other key sources of GHG emission include industrial processes, agricultural production and waste. Climatic patterns are becoming increasingly erratic and extreme, causing more frequent and intensive droughts, floods and other natural disasters.

Desertification and drought are environmental problems of global dimension that affect more than 900 million people in some 100 countries. Population growth, poverty and unsustainable use of land and natural resource base for food production, grazing, infrastructure development and urbanization without environmental considerations in ecologically fragile landscapes are key causes of land degradation.

2 National Capacity Self Assessment Process and Project in Vietnam

2.1 Project objectives

The primary goal of the NCSA is to identify and determine the nature of critical capacity constraints and priority capacity needs faced by Vietnam with

respect to the global environment taking into account the three Rio Conventions (UNCBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD) and associated thematic areas of biodiversity, climate change and desertification/ land degradation. The following are four (4) primary objectives, which are common for all NCSA projects globally:

1. To identify, confirm and review priority issues for action within the three thematic areas (*biodiversity, climate change and land degradation*).
2. To explore capacity building needs (and opportunities) within and across the three thematic areas and prioritise them. More specifically, the NCSA will focus on issues cutting across the three Rio Conventions.
3. To catalyse targeted and coordinated action at the national and local levels for future external funding and assistance. In this regard, the NCSA will prepare a national Strategy and Action Plan to address the identified constraints and needs.
4. To link above action to the broader national environmental management and sustainable development framework. One important aspect of the NCSA is that wherever possible, it will build on existing institutional mechanisms.

2.2 Implementation arrangement

1. National Executing Agency. The Department of Environment (DOE) within MONRE is the National Executing Agency for the NCSA Project. The Executing Agency will assume the day-to-day responsibility to ensure successful implementation of all activities for which funds are sought from UNDP. The Executing Agency will be financially accountable.
2. Steering Committee (SC).
 - The Steering Committee chaired by the Director of the Department of Environment, MONRE.
 - The other representatives are the representative of MARD, MPI
3. NCSA Project Management Unit (PMU). The NCSA Project Management Unit (PMU) was established within the DoE right at the outset of the project. The PMU is made up of the following positions:
 - National Project Director (NPD)
 - National Project Coordinator (NPC)
 - Project Assistant/Accountant (PA)

The PMU is responsible for coordinating activities with all national and international related projects – such as POPs, PARC, and agro-biodiversity conservation – to explore opportunities to foster synergies with these projects, both in terms of technical outputs and co-financing joint activities.

4. National and international consultancies. The NCSA will engage 10 national consultants divided by 3 thematic areas which includes 3 consultants for each area and 1 team leader of 3 groups; 1 international for technical supports.

2.3 NCSA implementation process in Viet Nam

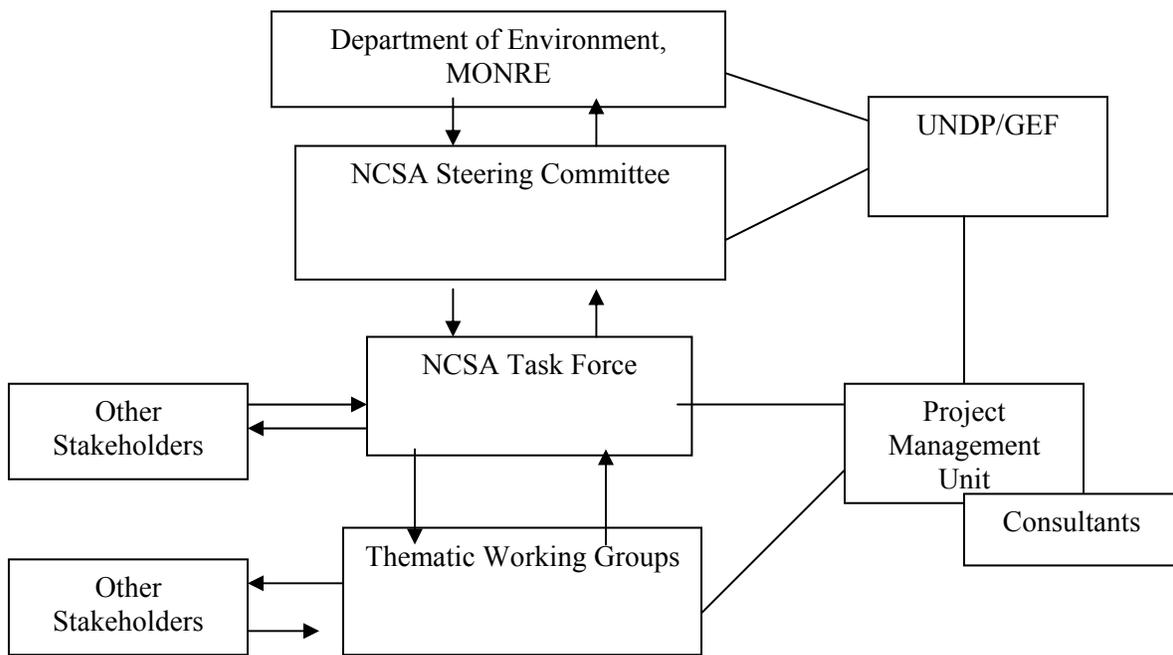
The Vietnam NCSA activities will follow the standard NCSA 9 Step Process, which is outlined in the UNDP-GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment: A Resource Kit. The main steps of NCSA project are as following:

1. **Inception:** This stage was conducted from October to December 2004. The inception report was developed in this stage. Inception workshop also was conducted to introduce the NCSA projects to related stakeholders. All the workplan and TORs for the project is completed in this stage.
2. **The Stock-take** – This stage was conducted from January to April 2005. The stock-taking reports were developed in this stage and sent to relevant stakeholders, including the focal points for their comments.
3. **Three Thematic Assessments** – This stage was conducted from May to September 2005. The thematic reports were developed in this stage and sent to relevant stakeholders for their comments. The thematic reports have identified the strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats and national priorities for the implementation of three Conventions in Viet Nam. The three reports were reviewed by senior consultants.
4. **The Cross-cutting Assessment** – This stage was conducted from October to November 2005. Cross-cutting report was developed from the thematic assessment. The report has identified the capacity situation, priority constraints, barriers and needs that cut across the three Conventions. This is an important assessment stage which provides the foundation for next steps. Therefore, 01 national and 03 regional workshops were organized in the North, the Central and the South to get the comments of related stakeholder.
5. **Development of Strategy and Action Plan** – The strategic action plan was developed from November to December 2005 based on the assessment of thematic and cross-cutting report to meet the needs and to address the constraints for the implementation of three Rio Conventions. National workshops were organized to get the comments from stakeholders.
6. **Development of National NCSA report.** The national report summarizes the finding from all reports of projects which was developed from December 2005 to January 2006.
7. **Development of MSP.** The MSP was developed from December 2005 to March 2006 as results of NCSA assessment to fulfill the obligations of 03 Rio Conventions.

2.4 Major Stakeholders

Project stakeholders include National Focal Points for International Conventions, national agencies, national universities, local institutions, and non-government institutions who will involve in, or responsible for, relevant capacity assessment.

The below Figure provide the details of the arrangements for cross-sectoral coordination and broad-based stakeholder engagement, which will, among other things, help the NCSA to build on existing knowledge and engender concert with other ongoing/ parallel processes within the environmental governance sector.



2.5 Monitoring Arrangements

The project complied with UNDP's monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements, as spelled out in the UNDP Programming Manual. Quarterly progress reports were submitted to UNDP by the executing agency, providing a brief summary of the status of activities and output delivery, explaining variances from the work plan, and presenting work-plans for each successive quarter for review and endorsement. The Quarterly progress reports have provided a basis for managing disbursements.

PART II: ENVIRONMENTAL SCENARIO, LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS IN VIETNAM

1 Overview of biodiversity status, GHG emissions and land degradation in Viet Nam

1.1 Overview on biodiversity status in Viet Nam

"Biological diversity" means the variability among living organisms from all sources. This includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems".

Vietnam has been recognized as one of the centres of high biodiversity including particular ecosystems, endemic species of high scientific and economic value and many precious genes.

Biological diversity plays an important part in socio-economic development and environmental protection. It is considered to be one of the most precious and unrepeatable natural resources, a basis of survival, prosperity and sustainability of human being. All these values are very necessary for meeting every day needs of the present and future generations.

The various geographic and climate conditions in different areas create the diversity of living creatures and the ecosystem diversity. In Vietnam, ecosystems are mainly divided into: terrestrial ecosystems (forest, agriculture, industry-urban, savanna, dry land and limestone mountains) and aquatic ecosystems (lake, river, coast, marine and ocean). These ecosystems, particularly forest ecosystems are also divided into different ecosystem types.

The climate of Vietnam is tropical monsoons. The total forest area used to account for 3/4 of total area, however, is only 12,302 million hectares up to 2004 (Forest Inventory and Planning Institute - FIPI, 2005). In spite of the great loss during the past decades, the vegetation coverage of Vietnam remains diversified and varied. According to inventory done by Thai Van Trung (1999), there are 14 forest types and many sub-type and soil, climate and anthropogenetic impacts, among which the of which, the close moist-evergreen tropical rain forest type in altitude of 700-800m possesses very high biodiversity. This type and others as open broad-leaved semi-dry tropical forests close broad-leaved and coniferous moist sub-tropical low mountain forests, limestone forests, littoral mangroves forests and mossy forests are conservation objects of Vietnam.

According to forecast of botanists, the total of higher plant species of Vietnam may be up to 20,000 species in case of being fully investigated. Among the inventoried species, about 2000 are timber species, 3,000 medicinal plant

species, 1,000 orchids of Orchidaceae family, more than 100 bamboo and 50 rattan species.

Biodiversity reduction in Vietnam

Biological diversity sources have been seriously extracted and degraded and tends to be reduced quickly. Habitats of the wild animals and natural ecosystems have been being on the brink of extinct for recent years. According to new standards of the International Organization for Nature Conservation - IUCN, in 2003, scientists revised Vietnam Red Data Book, in which the number of animals and plants recorded is much higher than those proclaimed before (417 species of animals and 450 species of plants). This shows that the reduction status and level of threat, to rare and valuable species of animal and plant of Vietnam has been ever-increasing.

The biodiversity reduction in Vietnam is most clearly shown in the reduction of forest resources. The loss of forest leads to loss of genetic resources, living habitats of rare and valuable animals and plants. Many rare and valuable species of animals and plants are greatly reduced or threatened by extinction including: *Panax vietnamensis*, amomun, red pine, rhinoceros, tigers, gayal, deers, primates, pangolin, black coots, copperhead, etc. The reduction and degradation of the natural ecosystems and habitats of many species of animals and plants in Vietnam particularly tropical and wetland forests I the main cause for biodiversity degradation in Vietnam. In the first half of XX century, in Vietnam, two great animal species including Rhinoceros sumatraensis and Tapirus indica disappeared; Kouprey (*Bos sauveli*), *Cervus eldi* were also in extinction by the end of XX century.

Regarding to flora, many valuable species of timber trees such as *Dalbergia oliveri*, *Chukrasia tabularis*, *Aquilaria crassna*, etc. have mostly become extinct in the nature. The *Glyptostrobus pensilis* alone - a kind of Gymnospermae providing specious wood - which used to distribute widely, now comprises about 100 mature individuals growing in two marshes of Daklak province. Many valuable medicinal plants of Vietnam are being seriously threatened. *Panax bipinnatifidus*, *Coptis quinquesecta*, *Coptis chinensis*, for instance, have been decreased by 80% in number during the past ten years.

In conclusion, forest resources in Vietnam was threatened to be exhausted in regards of area, biomass and quality during decades prior to 1990s. In 1991, there left only 27% of the total area of natural land, of which 10% is premival forests. However, since 1995, by adopting the national measures, strategies and policies on forest protection and afforestation, the coverage rate increased to 36.7% in 2004 (PIFI, 2005).

Threats to biodiversity

Biodiversity is of great significance to human life. This has been, however, being reduced at an alarming level partly by pressure of the nature but foremost of the human.

There are many reasons for the loss of biodiversity resources in Vietnam. The following are the typical ones ranked upon their seriousness:

- Activities of shifting in land use causing loss and changes of habitats;
- Changes in the components of the ecosystems;
- Over-exploitation;
- Population growth;
- Forest fires;
- War;
- Environmental pollution;
- Trading of rare and valuable wild animals and plants;
- Alien invasive species;
- Building infrastructure;
- Global climate change;
- Insufficient law enforcement.

1.2 Overview on green house gas emission in Viet Nam

The amount of GHG emission in Vietnam was at approximately 100-125 million tons CO₂ equivalent in 1993, 1994 and increased to 140-150 million tons CO₂ equivalent in 2002 and possibly higher for 1-2 years recently.

For ten years from 1993-2002, GHG was emitted at the highest rate in agriculture, energy, forestry and land use. The above-mentioned changes in GHG emission amount for the ten-year-time proves that GHG emission amount increased quickly in energy, slightly in agriculture and dropped in forestry and land use.

In 1993, from 1994 to 1998 and possibly in 1999 as well, GHG emission was higher in agriculture than in other areas. However, in 2000, it fell in energy. This is an inevitable consequence of the socio-economic development tendency of a country as reported in the initial national communication and other relevant documents related to climate change.

The GHG emission in 2002 in each area was estimated and assumed as follow:

Energy	: 67000 thousand tons CO ₂ equivalent	(46.2%)
Industrial processes	: 15000 „	(10.3%)
Agriculture	: 50000 „	(34.48%)

Forestry and land use changes	: 10000	„	(6.90%)
Waste	: 3000	„	(2.07%)
Total amount	: 145000	„	(100%)

1.3 Overview on land use, management and land degradation in Viet Nam

According to recent surveys, among the 21 million ha of in-use agricultural and forestland in Vietnam, a considerable part has low fertility. There are particularly 9.34 million hectares of uncultivated land of which some 7.85 million hectares are under strongly affected by desertification. These are mainly impoverished barren land being in risk of more seriously exhausted.

Desert land of Vietnam is not immensely concentrated into hundred thousand hectare desert as other countries but scattered distributes throughout over the country particular in upland rural areas.

In recent decades, the increase of natural calamity and drought frequency, land reclaim and water use for agricultural and industrial production and uncontrolled deforestation has made land and water degradation in Vietnam get more and more rapidly and largely that badly affected environmental conditions and socio-economic development as well as caused difficulties for the hunger eradication and poverty alleviation in rural areas.

Recent land evaluation surveys have classified land and desertification affected areas in Vietnam as follows:

Land type	Land area (ha)	Concentrated area
Heavy degraded land (including laterized land)	7,000,000	Whole country
Sand dune and moving sand bank	400,000	Central coastal provinces
Seasonal or permanent drought land	300,000	South Central (Binh Thuan, Ninh Thuan and South of Khanh Hoa)
Eroded land	120,000	Northwest, Central Highlands and others
Saline and sulfated land	30,000	Mekong Delta (Long Xuyen Quadrangle)

Source: NAP, 2002.

2 Policy and Legal Framework for implementation of the International Conventions and Environmental Management in Vietnam

2.1 Key strategies

(1) National Orientation Strategy for Sustainable Development in Vietnam (Vietnam Agenda 21) (2004), (issued under the Decision No. 153/2004/QĐ-TTg dated 17/8/2004 of the Prime Minister).

The objectives of the Strategy are harmonious coordination of economic growth, social progress and equality and environmental protection to satisfy the needs of the current generations without compromising the capacity of future generations. The Strategy is also aimed to fully implement the international conventions and clearly state that it is necessary to promote, educate, disseminate and improve community's awareness for effective and comprehensive implementation of international conventions that Vietnam has acceded.

(2) National Strategy for Environmental Protection until 2010 and vision toward 2020 (2004) (issued under Decision 256/2003/QĐ-TTg dated December 02, 2003 by the Prime Minister).

This Strategy has fundamental tasks on the environmental protection included: (i) Pollution prevention and control; (ii) Remedy seriously environmental pollution and degradation; (iii) Protection and sustainable exploitation of natural resources; (iv) Environmental protection and improvement of focal areas and (v) Nature and biodiversity conservation.

(3) Strategy for management of protected areas in Viet Nam to 2010 (2003). The strategy has been approved by Prime Minister according to the Decision number 192/2003/QĐ-TTg dated 17th September 2003 with the main contents: (i) establishment and effective management natural protected areas in Viet Nam; (ii) Awareness enhancement for the community in the importance and value of biodiversity and (iii) institutional and policy reform and (iv) enhancement of international cooperation.

(4) Strategy for Forestry development in 2001-2010 (2002)

This Strategy was approved by MARD under Decision No. 199/QĐ-BNN-PTLN dated January 22, 2002 with the fundamental contents as follows: (i) Regarding to environment, to increase forest coverage to 43%; (ii) Regarding to economy, to export forest products of 2.5 billion USD (iii) Regarding to society, to involve about 6.0 to 8.0 million labors in forestry production and (iv) Regarding to forest structure to 2010: 6 million hectare protection forests, 2 million hectare special-use forests and 8 million hectare production forests.

(5) GEF Strategy 2001-2010 and GEF programme 2001-2005 (2000)

This Strategy with the comprehensive objective is conservation of the globally valued biodiversity resources in Vietnam, minimization of national

impacts to climate changes and enhancement of sustainable use and conservation of the international water resources.

(6) Least – cost GHG emission reduction strategy for forestry sector.

Main contents: Total GHG emission amount caused by forests and land use change; Solutions to GHG emission amount caused by forests; and the basic scenarios for GHG emission reduction to 2020.

(7) Strategies on transportation development and anticipation of energy demand by MEDEE – S/ENV model (for strategic research on responses to climate change) (1997)

2.2 Existing Laws and Regulations

<p>Law on Environmental Protection (2005)</p>	<p>The Law regulates prevention, limitation of negative impacts on environment; waste management; response, remedy of environmental incidents, rehabilitation and improvement of environmental quality; environmental standards, monitoring, assessment of environmental state and information, data management on environment; resources for environmental protection; environmental protection authority and responsibilities; inspection dealing with breaches, settlement of complains, denunciation and disputes, and compensation for environmental damages; international cooperation in environmental protection.</p>
<p>Law on Forest Development and Protection (2004)</p>	<p>The Law regulates protection and management of wild species; categorization of 3 kinds of forests: production, protection and special-use forests; regulates agencies to take responsibility for planning, managing, protecting and monitoring special-use forests.</p>
<p>Land Law (ratified by S.R.V National Assembly on 26th November, 2003 and come in force since 1st July, 2004).</p>	<p>The Law stipulates land use right, state management of land, land use rules, rights and obligations of land user, and</p>

	administrative procedures in using land.
Law on Water Resources (1998)	The Law regulates on ownership and management of water resources; protection, exploitation and utilization of water resources; preventing, combating and overcoming flood consequences; utilization and protection of irrigation works; international relation on water resources; state management on water resources; sectoral inspection on water resources.
Land Law (2003)	The Law stipulates land use right, state management of land, land use rules, rights and obligations of land user, and administrative procedures in using land
Law on Road transportation (Order of The Prime Minister of Socialist Republic of Vietnam dated, No. 07/2001/L-CTN dated 12/7/2001).	The state gives priority to development public transportation and restriction of individual means of transport in big cities.

3 Main agencies, organizations involved in the implementation of 3 Conventions

3.1 State organizations

Role and responsibilities of state organizations involved in the implementation of 3 Conventions as following:

(5) Ministry of Natural resources and Environment

Being responsible to the Government for implementation synergy of UNCBD and UNFCCC.

(6) Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)

Being assigned as focal agency for the implementation of UNCCD.

(7) GEF Vietnam

Development of short-term and long-term strategic programmes for GEF Vietnam, definition of priority areas and consideration of consensus on projects related to biodiversity, climate change and land degradation funded by GEF.

(8) Ministries, sectors and localities

To coordinate with convention focal agency to implement detail tasks; implementation of technical assistance and investment projects related to biodiversity, climate change and land degradation.

Beside the Government organizations, a lots of international and national non-government organizations with activities related to the implementation of 2 or 3 conventions in Vietnam.

Government Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides guidelines to implement NAP and international cooperation orientation for UNCCD implementation at national level. - Provides recommendation to the Government in assessment and approval of programmes/projects and strategies for UNCCD implementation
Ministry of Foreign affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Being in charge of foreign affairs at national level which are related to international conventions.
Ministry of Planning and Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appraising and submitting to the Government for approval and managing projects relating to international conventions
Ministry of Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing guidance's, assisting convention executing agency to receive and manage finance from domestic and foreign finance sources through projects.
State Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing guidance's on receiving finance from international Banks to the Convention Executing agencies.
GEF Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of short-term and long-term strategic programmes for GEF Vietnam - Definition of priority areas and consideration of consensus on projects related to biodiversity, climate change and land degradation funded by GEF. - Endorsement and management of GEF projects on BD, CC and LD.
Ministry of Science and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Takes part in appraisal and approval of programmes/projects relates to 3 Rio

	<p>Coventions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop science and technology plans for BD, LD and CC.
Ministry of Natural resources and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Being responsible to the Government for implementation synergy of UNCBD and UNFCCC.
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Being assigned as focal agency for the implementation of UNCCD.
Ministries, sectors and localities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To coordinate with Convention focal agency to implement detail tasks; - To implement technical assistance and investment projects related to biodiversity, climate change and land degradation.

3.2 NGOs

The NGOs relate to implementation of 3 Rio Conventions are as following:

National NGOs:

- (1) Research Center for Energy and Environment (RCEE).
- (2) Institution of Industrial and Chemical safety (INDUTECH)
- (3) Ecology and Environment Institution (EEI)
- (4) Research Center of Climate Change and Sustainable Development (RCCCSD)
- (5) Scientific and Technological Center of Hydrometeorology and Environment
- (6) Economic and Ecology Institute (ECO-ECO)
- (7) Institute for Environment and Sustainable Development
- (8) Vietnam Association for Conservation of Nature and Environment (VACNE)
- (9) Center for Resource and Environment Study (CRES)
- (10) Research Institute for Community Development (RICCD)
- (11) Centre for Research, Education and Environment Development (CERED)
- (12) Vietnam Forestry Association (VIFA)

International NGOs:

- (1) The World Conservation Union (IUCN)
- 2) World Wide Fund (WWF)
- (3) International Fauna and Flora (FFI)
- (4) Birdlife International
- (5) Australia Association for Environmental Research and Supports
- (6) Frankfurt Zoology Association

4 Environmental Management Programmes and Activities

4.1 Biodiversity conservation

Since Vietnam acceded UNCBD, Biodiversity conservation and management have achieved much more progress than before. What have been achieved clearly shows that the Government has given great efforts to biodiversity conservation. The followings are typical manifestations thereof:

- Legal documents and policies biodiversity conservation have been provided as a legal basic to sustainably push up biodiversity conservation, especially through BAP - approved in 1995. The management mechanism of three kinds of forests (special-use, protection and production) is also an important legal document for forest management in Vietnam.
- The approval of special-use forest and protected area network and the acknowledgement of forms of protected area has actively contributed to management and conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity resources in general, to awareness rising of the Government and among communities of the importance and high value of ecosystems and biodiversity resources and renovation of management mechanism and policies of nature reserves in particular.
- To expand cooperation with international organizations is an effective method to strengthen capacities of national, institutional and individual levels in deploying every activity of the above-mentioned task.
- Education, training and propaganda of environment and biodiversity has been rather early initiated and launched. At present, education, training and propaganda programmes on these thematic areas have been popular on mass media. The integration of environment and biodiversity into curricula of all levels is also a prominent achievement of these programmes.

4.2 Mitigation and Adaptation of Climate Change

Since the Convention was signed (11 June 1992) and approved (19 November 1994) and especially since the Convention took effect in Vietnam (14

February 1995), Vietnam has made great effort to fulfill all obligations of a party of the Convention through the following activities:

- Considering to climate change in the State strategies, programs and plans;
- Undertaking national GHG inventory and developing solutions to GHG mitigation;
- Studying effects of climate change and proposing plans for responses;
- Monitoring, doing researches on climate change, communicating on mass media of climate change and developing proposals and implementing projects on climate change.

Vietnam strategy for climate change thematic area is appropriate with strategy for sustainable development and the national strategy for environmental protection of Vietnam. Each activity of climate change thematic area is also an integral part of national programs or plans on energy, industry, transportation, agriculture, forestry, and environment. As a result, capacities to implement UNFCCC of Vietnam are sustainable ensured.

Activities to implement UNFCCC in Vietnam have drawn attentions of managers, cooperation of scientist, and support of communities. In fact, those activities improved capacities to direct and manage skills to study science, capacities to participate in the international activities of environment in general and of climate change in particular.

Achievement of UNFCCC implementation actively contributed to improving people's awareness of environmental issues of the globe as well as of Vietnam. Especially, every GEF project on climate change results in particular environmental, socio-economic benefits to beneficiary communities in the project sites. In return, the support of communities to the projects is also an important factor to push up activities of the projects and ensure the success of the projects on climate change.

Vietnam has built an organizational structure including the state management agencies of ministry level, the state institutions, universities, and NGOs that is sufficient to implement UNFCCC. In particular, Vietnam has set up a National Working Group, Consultancy Boards in implementing critical project especially CDM projects.

Vietnam has also developed staffs implementing UNFCCC of various majors (energy, transportation, industry, forestry, agriculture, hydrometeorology, etc.), generations of scientific and management officials ranging from being well experienced to mature.

4.3 Sustainable Land Management

In 1991, the National Assembly was approved the Law on Forest Protection and Development. The Land Law was also approved in 1993. The Law on Environment Protection got the approval in 1994 and 4 years later the Law on Water Resource was completely in force. This was the great effort of the country focusing on land and water protection, forests development – the major factors to support the desertification combating process before becoming a member of UNCCD.

Viet Nam has conducted certain projects/programmes on land degradation. The projects/programmes are divided into three groups:

Integrated programmes/projects

- 5 Million Hectare Afforestation Programme (5MHAP);
- Project on Forest Ecology Conservation in Watershed Areas;
- Rural Development with Environment Protection Programme;
- Education and Training Programme on Environment;
- Strengthen Capacity of Institutions at Central and Local Level on Environment Protection Programme;
- Sustainable Forest Management and Forests Certification Programme;
- Social Forestry Development Project Song Da;
- Sustainable Management of Resources in Mekong Basin Project.
- Establishment and Implementation of Legal Documents and Policy Systems on Sustainable Natural Resource Management and Environment Protection;
- Water Resource Protection in Red River Delta;
- Programme 135 on poverty alleviation and infrastructure improvement in 1,700 the poorest communes located in remote areas.

Projects specifically on desertification:

- Land Resource Protection to Release of Bad Impacts of Unsuitable Cultivating Practices;
- Release of Impacts of Industrial Pollution on Soil and Water;
- Water Resource Protection in Mekong River Delta;
- Sand Dune Fixation by Forest Establishment in Quang Tri Province;
- Underground Water Protection and Sustainable Harvesting in Central Highland;
- Afforestation in Seriously Degraded Land Areas of Ha Tinh, Quang Binh

- and Quang Tri Province.
- Afforestation for Sand Dune Fixation in Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Phu Yen and Khanh Hoa, period 2001-2004;
- Project on Assessment the Situation of Environment, Ecology of Sand Areas, Wetland Areas in Coastal Central Region to Combat Desertification,
- Protect Environment, Support Socio-economic Development in 10 Coastal Central Provinces, since 2002;
- Forest Planting in Quang Ninh, Bac Giang and Lang Son, period 2000-2004, to set up 13,000 ha of forests in bare land;
- Assessment and Control of Disaster Forecasting System, period 2000-2001;
- Dam Programme VIE/87/021, period 2000-2001;

Support programmes

- Survey and assessment of affected areas and update information on the utilization of land-water-forest resources and drought (2002-2005)
- Strengthen legal framework on natural resources sustainable management, 2002-2010
- Strengthen international cooperation, information exchange, training and education (2002-2020)
- Mobilizing/seeking funding sources, establishing projects for NAP implementation (2003-2010)
- Develop relevant advanced science and technology basing on traditional knowledge promotion (2003-2010)

PART III: OBLIGATIONS AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS IN VIETNAM

1 Obligations of Viet Nam under the three International Rio Conventions

1.1 United Nations Convention on Biodiversity And Cartagena Protocol

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) is one of the Rio Conventions approved at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) convened in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992. The UNCBD came into force in December 1993. At present, the UNCBD is the key international instrument used to address issues related to biological diversity (BD). The UNCBD focus on innovations and practices relevant to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components and sharing equitably benefits arising from the use of traditional knowledge. Up to 24 August 2005, 168 countries are parties to the UNCBD. Viet Nam ratified UNCBD on 16 November 1994.

The countries are parties to UNCBD committed to implement common measures for conservation and sustainable usage of biodiversity as follow:

- 1) Develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
- 2) Integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.
- 3) Establish a system of protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity and promote the friendly development in the surroundings;
- 4) Regulate or manage biological resources important for the conservation of biological diversity whether within or outside protected areas, with a view to ensuring their conservation and sustainable use;
- 5) Rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems and promote the recovery of threatened species;
- 6) Respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider

application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices;

7) Prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species;

8) Establish or maintain means to regulate, manage or control the risks associated with the use and release of living modified organisms (LMO);

9) Introduce appropriate procedures requiring environmental impact assessment of its proposed projects that are likely to have significant adverse effects on biological diversity with a view to avoiding or minimizing such effects and, where appropriate, allow for public participation in such procedures;

10) Promote and encourage understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biological diversity, as well as its propagation through media, and the inclusion of these topics in educational programmes;

11) Present to the Conference of the Parties, reports on measures which it has taken for the implementation of the provisions of this Convention and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of this Convention.

1.2 United Nations Framework Convention On Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol

1.2.1 United Nations Framework Convention On Climate Change

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was adopted in May 1992, approved and came into force in March 1994. Up to May 2004, 166 countries are members to it. Viet Nam signed UNFCCC on 11 June 1992, ratified it on 16 November 1994 and this became effective on 14 February 1995.

The ultimate objective of this Convention is to achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

Viet Nam commits to fulfill the following obligations under UNFCCC:

1) Monitoring climate and developing a systematic observation networks; promoting the exchange of information on climate and climate change; informing other parties of the Convention about data and information relating to climate change.

2) Carrying out a national inventory of GHG in every fields of national economy.

3) Carrying out scientific research and developing inter-governmental or international programs on systematic monitoring, capacities of scientific research related to climate change and training scientific staffs of climate change.

4) Considering of integrating climate change into environmental and socio-economic policies and actions, etc.

5) Implementing national programs on mitigating climate change by:

- Taking remedial measures to climate change, adapting and propagating the processes that examine, prevent or reduce and limit emission and preserve sinks and reservoirs of GHG;
- Developing, strengthening plans to manage the riverside and coastal areas.

6) Putting on mass media issues of climate changes; developing, implementing the national programs or undertaking international cooperation on educating and improving public awareness of climate change and the effects thereof.

7) Proposing, implementing or internationally cooperating on implementation of projects that are financed with incremental cost and other necessary equipments.

1.2.2 Kyoto Protocol

Obligations of Viet Nam under KP are based on Article 10 (repeating Article 4 of the UNFCCC), Article 12 (voluntary participation into CDM) comprising of:

(1) Have in place a national system for the estimation of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol.

(2) Development and regularly update information on the national inventory of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol

(3) The purpose of the clean development mechanism shall be to assist Viet Nam in achieving sustainable development and in contributing to the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC.

1.3 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

The UNCCD implementation of Vietnam has been started right after the ratification of the Government on 25th August 1998 (to be in force on 23rd November of the same year).

Apart from common obligations (Article 4. Part I), UNCCD has stipulated obligations particular for countries those located in desertification-affected areas and for each region in Article 5 as following:

- (1) Give due priority to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, and allocate adequate resources in accordance with their circumstances and capabilities;
- (2) Establish strategies and priorities, within the framework of sustainable development plans and/or policies, to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought;
- (3) Address the underlying causes of desertification and pay special attention to the socio- economic factors contributing to desertification processes;
- (4) Promote awareness and facilitate the participation of local populations, particularly women and youth, with the support of non-governmental organizations, in efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought; and
- (5) Provide an enabling environment by strengthening, as appropriate, relevant existing legislation and, where they do not exist, enacting new laws and establishing long-term policies and action programmes.

Additionally, UNCCD requirements are also come in Article 10 to National Action Programme (NAP).

1. The purpose of national action programmes is to identify the factors contributing to desertification and practical measures necessary to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.
2. National action programmes shall specify the respective roles of government, local communities and land users and the resources available and needed. They shall, inter alia:
 - (a) Incorporate long-term strategies to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought, emphasize implementation and be integrated with national policies for sustainable development;
 - (b) Allow for modifications to be made in response to changing circumstances and be sufficiently flexible at the local level to cope with different socio-economic, biological and geo-physical conditions;
 - (c) Give particular attention to the implementation of preventive measures for lands that are not yet degraded or which are only slightly degraded;

(d) Enhance national climatological, meteorological and hydrological capabilities and the means to provide for drought early warning;

(e) Promote policies and strengthen institutional frameworks which develop cooperation and coordination, in a spirit of partnership, between the donor community, governments at all levels, local populations and community groups, and facilitate access by local populations to appropriate information and technology;

(f) Provide for effective participation at the local, national and regional levels of non- governmental organizations and local populations, both women and men, particularly resource users, including farmers and pastoralists and their representative organizations, in policy planning, decision-making, and implementation and review of national action programmes; and

(g) Require regular review of, and progress reports on, their implementation.

3. National action programmes may include, inter alia, some or all of the following measures to prepare for and mitigate the effects of drought:

(a) Establishment and/or strengthening, as appropriate, of early warning systems, including local and national facilities and joint systems at the sub-regional and regional levels, and mechanisms for assisting environmentally displaced persons;

(b) Strengthening of drought preparedness and management, including drought contingency plans at the local, national, sub-regional and regional levels, which take into consideration seasonal to interannual climate predictions;

(c) Establishment and/or strengthening, as appropriate, of food security systems, including storage and marketing facilities, particularly in rural areas;

(d) Establishment of alternative livelihood projects that could provide incomes in drought prone areas; and

(e) Development of sustainable irrigation programmes for both crops and livestock.

4. Taking into account the circumstances and requirements specific to each affected country Party.

2 National priorities for the implementation of the three international Rio Conventions in Viet Nam

2.1 United Nations Convention on Biodiversity And Cartagena Protocol

BD in Viet Nam has been faced with great challenges. Nevertheless, these challenges and unresolved issues that have been pointed out in NCSA stock-taking

reports are likely to be regarded as opportunities for changes and improvement of the current situation. To response to the above these challenges and unresolved issues, Viet Nam should implement the following prioritized issues:

- (1) To improve institutional structure and management with the following concrete activities:
- (2) To improve a legal framework
- (3) To enhance efficiency of conservation measures
- (4) Research and education
- (5) To enhance the communication and awareness activities
- (6) To promote information exchange
- (7) Financial and investment mechanism
- (8) To promote and enhance international and regional cooperation

2.2 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Basing on national development strategies, NAP had proposed priority issues, which after several years of implementation have been submitted for reviewing in the National Conference on UNCCD implementation (held in September 2004). There priority issues were reviewed, complemented and reconfirmed in the National Report 2005 (the first draft) as follows:

- (1) Sustainable management of water resources
- (2) Forest protection and development
- (3) Promoting sustainable land use
- (4) Managing and forecasting natural calamities and drought
- (5) Thoroughly grasping desertification trend for early warning its impacts in 4 prioritized areas.
- (6) Research study, education and training on environment issues
- (7) Establishing plan and policies, mechanism on environment issues
- (8) Controlling population growth rate to reduce pressure on natural resources
- (9) Planning urban and industrial zone development scheme

2.3 United Nations Framework Convention On Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol

To effectively implement UNFCCC and KP, Viet Nam has set out the following national prioritized issues:

- (1) To develop the national action plan to implement UNFCCC and KP.

- (2) To strengthen capacities to implement UNFCCC and KP.
- (3) To integrate climate change issues into policies, programs, and development plans of economic sectors.
- (4) To strengthen legal system on climate change.
- (5) To study measures to response and adapt with climate change.
- (6) To develop portfolio of potential projects.
- (7) To propagandize and to raise public awareness.
- (8) To enhance international co-operation.

PART IV: CAPACITY ASSESSEMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS IN VIETNAM

1 United Nations Convention on Biodiversity and Cartagena Protocol

1.1 Achievements in implementation of the United Nations Conventions on Biodiversity and Cartagena Protocol

1.1.1 Development of legal and regulatory framework

So far, there exist about 100 legal documents directly or indirectly related to living organism source and BD in Viet Nam. These statutory instruments presents the due attentions paid by the Government to BD and acts as an important legal ground for effective protection of BD in Viet Nam. Since 2004, the law on forest protection and development and law on environmental protection has been revised and complemented. In addition, the Political Bureau has issued a Resolution 41-NQ/TW on environmental protection in the cause to promote industrialization and modernization of the country and the Prime Minister has approved the Orientation of Sustainable development Strategy of Viet Nam (Agenda 21); the National strategy for environmental protection until 2010 and vision toward 2020; the National Action Plan to Strengthen control over trading activities of wild animal and plants to 2010; the National Action Plan to sustainably conserve and develop wetland areas; the National Action Plan to 2010 for Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol On Biosafety; Ordinance on Crop Varieties; Ordinance on Livestock Breeds, etc having coordinated different areas of BD conservation and created favourable conditions for the Government to issue the decrees, regulations, decisions on natural resources and BD.

The Government has also issues a regulatory system related to management and protection of forest and seas; forest plantation and allocation; aquaculture, etc to support BD conservation.

With the existing legal and regulatory framework, the conservation of BD in Viet Nam has been improved and resulted in significant achievements.

1.1.2 Measures to conserve biodiversity

In situ conservation

"In-situ conservation" (on site conservation) means the conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties. This has been shown to be the most effective measure to conserve BD.

Ex-situ conservation

Ex-situ conservation has been initially developed under various forms: Botanical gardens, nursery gardens, collection gardens, sample medicinal plant gardens, zoological gardens, emergency centers, gene banks, etc. Now, many national parks and centers for forestry researches have developed botanical and collection gardens. The movement of planting native trees has relatively been enhanced in Viet Nam.

Biodiversity conservation based on community

This is one of the BD methodologies based on the ecological-humanitarian view. The current states of Viet Nam and other countries in the world has proved that BD management and conservation based on local community is likely to be efficient on such perspectives as: harmonization of a relationship between human and nature of which BD is a part; sustainable and stable use and management of natural resources; limitation of conflicts between socio-economic development and nature conservation and the impacts of socio-economic development on BD and natural habitats; reduction of investment level in nature conservation, etc.

Since 1995, the Government as well as international organizations have paid much attentions to management and development of community forests under such policies as the “327” and “661” programs have directed the allocation of forest land to organizations, households and individuals for a purpose of forestry development in combination with other forest afforestation and rehabilitation programs; The rural and mountainous development project in Cao Bang – Bac Kan provinces and the rural and mountainous development project in Son La - Lai Chau province in (2000-2005) have also both allocated forest land to communities and households and conducted activities to manage and develop forest basing on communities. Particularly, Quang Nam province has been implementing one project funded by provincial budget and technically assisted by the FORD FOUNDATION on allocating forest land to communities and households and applying measures of forest management basing on community and another Management of Strategic Areas for Integrated Conservation project (MOSAIC) funded by the WWF. In addition, many small projects conducted at community levels such as projects of GEF, UNDP conducted in buffer zones of Hoang Lien National Park and Pac Bo Historical, Cultural and Environmental Forest Area, etc.

Development and culture of biological source with the purpose to ensure sustainable development

Sustainable conservation and exploitation of biological resources are the two important perspectives towards sustainable biodiversity development in particular and environmental development in general.

At the present, Viet Nam has been applying several methods of biological culture including aquaculture, culture of wild animals, forest plantation

1.1.3 Research and education

Researches on biodiversity in Viet Nam have actually been done since the UNCBD was signed and more exactly since the BAP was approved and promulgated in professional manner. Firstly, BD inventory has been conducted in almost all of national parks and nature reserves and in several provinces, cities, socio-economic regions, etc. The species components of the principal BD groups have been gradually promulgated through a Fauna and Floral project of Viet Nam. There have been many efforts in doing researches on precious and rare fauna and flora species that have been in the brink of imminent extinction. BD inventory of traditional fauna and flora species has also been conducted. There has been database of pelagic species that used to be ignored such as: seagrass, coral, seaweed, poisonous algae. The results of researches on BD can be updated by national workshops, institutes, universities or through state projects and programs.

With the active investment and efforts of the state over 10 years in combination with the supports of international organizations, observations and researches on ecological, fauna and flora systems of Viet Nam have been strengthened and has produced good results. Especially, 5 new large animals and many other fauna and floral species have been discovered for scientific purposes.

An education and training of scientific and managerial staff of BD in Viet Nam is responsibility of universities. In Viet Nam there have been a large network of universities for graduate and post-graduate training. The other educating institutions (institutes, centres, projects, thesis, etc) have also involved in education of BD.

1.1.4 Communication and awareness raising in BD conservation

Awareness of the role and importance of BD conservation within the framework of sustainable development has been formed for long time and at a certain level. Along with the social and economic development, this awareness has gradually been raised and ever-clearly and specifically presented in a system of relevant legal documents. At a certain extent, BD issues have been intergrated into a system of relevant legal documents such as policies and directions of the Party and the State.

Beside the issuance of the relevant legal documents, The Government of Viet Nam has also put great efforts into translating this awareness into concrete actions through the approval of strategies, plans and programs related to natural resources and BD.

Within these above strategies, plans and programs, raising awareness of environmental issues in general and of BD conservation and sustainable development in particular of social classes has been paid much attention and defined as one of the national priorities.

Some of strategies and policies of the Government of Viet Nam related to raising an awareness of BD conservation and sustainable development

- In the Law on Environmental Protection of Vietnam was passed by the Vietnam National Assembly on 27/12/1993, an Article 37, provision 8 regulated that one of contents of the state management on environment is “educating scientific and managerial staff about environment; educating, propagandizing, disseminating knowledge and laws on environmental protection”.
- The Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) of Vietnam was developed and approved by the Prime minister at Decision 845/TTg on 22 December 1995 has confirmed that awareness raising is one of the priorities of the Action Plan. This priority should be widely practiced among the public and managers as well as decision makers to enhance knowledge and promote the participation of them into BD conservation in Viet Nam.
- The Directive 36/CT-TW on June 25, 1998 of the Political Bureau has clearly stated, “Environmental protection is the common task of the whole party and people and army” and asked the Government to “facilitate and promote people to regularly update environmental information as a fundamental method to protect an environment”. Environmental protection can be understood, in large meaning, to include BD.
- Viet Nam Biodiversity Awareness Raising Strategy for 2000-2010 (2001): issued in Decision 26/2002/QĐ-BKHCMNT
- On September 17, 2003, the Prime Minister approved the Strategy to protect the Nature Reserve system to 2010 which clearly defined the needs for training the managers and staff of the BD conservation areas; raising people’s awareness of people of the importance and value of BD resource.
- The National Strategy for environmental protection until 2010 and vision toward 2020 (2004) has identified that nature and BD conservation is one of the main contents of the strategy. To implement this contents as well as others of the strategies, several solutions have been worked out with special focus on a solution namely ”Promoting propaganda, education and public awareness of environmental protection responsibility”.
- The Resolution 41/NQ-TW on November 15 2004 of the Political Bureau on Environmental protection in the cause of promoting national industrialization and modernization and an Action Plan of the Government to implement this Resolution (issued in accordance with a Decision 34/2005/QĐ-TTg on February 22 2005 of the Prime Minister) all confirmed that propaganda, education and public awareness of environmental protection in general and of BD protection in particular is one of the prioritized tasks and measures.

This direction has been also presented in the fact that Vietnam is one of the few countries in south and south-east Asia to have ratified all the key international conventions related to biodiversity including The World Heritage Convention, 1987; The Ramsar Convention, 1989; The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), 1994.

At present, Viet Nam has been implementing a programme of biological diversity awareness enhancement for 2001-2010, approved at a Decision 26/2002/QĐ-BKHCMNT on May 8, 2002 by the former Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MoSTE). This program aims at translating awareness enhancement identified in BAP of Viet Nam into concrete activities. It specially emphasizes the role of enhancement of awareness and knowledge of the whole society of the responsibility for all living modes with the aim to rationally extract, use and develop without degrading genetic resource or deteriorating species and ecosystems of the future generations.

In parallel with the issuance of directions and policies, Viet Nam has also invested in and development of a system of universities, research institutes on BD and natural resources as well as deployed many large related projects and programs. This is an important basics for enhancing an awareness of BD conservation and sustainable development.

An awareness of BD values of community has been ever-improved. Attitudes of communities toward natural resources and environment are more of responsible manner by nature. The participation of local communities, social organizations in localities is more and more widely active and efficient especially the participation of the associations of farmers, women, elder people, and unions of youth, teenages, schools.

The collaboration between agencies and sectors from central to local levels becomes ever-closer with various and efficient form of education. Many articles, good examples and typical samples of environmental and natural resources protection have been posted in daily and weekly newspapers of central and local agencies; the special bulletines referred much more on issues of research, education, enhancement of awareness of conservation of BD and natural resources; Viet Nam Television has broadcast a program on natural resources and environment, conducted many activites to improve an awareness of environmental protection and BD conservation, organized many competitions of composing songs, drawing pictures, taking photographs, developing television films about protection of natural resources and environment; many training courses on BD conservation have also been deployed in many places for various subjects. Many publications on biodiversity and biosafety have been disseminated.

1.1.5 Information exchange and management

Under the document 263/KGVX on January 14 1997, The Prime Minister officially assigned the former Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MOSTE) to collaborate with the General Directorate of Posts and Telecommunications and the Ministry of the Interior to implement a project titled "International Environmental Information Network MERCURE/ UNEPNet" funded by UNEP. The national environmental agency (now namely VEPA) under MONRE is assigned to be directly responsible for supervision and management of Hanoi MERCURE Station which has been operating since the beginning of 1998. At the present, Viet Nam has been able to exploit, exchange and share information with all sources of environmental information globally.

Since 2001, internet users can have free access to many useful environmental information from the above website including environmental news and events of Viet Nam and other countries, news of environmental management of Viet Nam, referring to databases and websites of GEF, GIS, issues of BD and biosafety, etc. At present, VEPA has been collaborating with MONRE and relevant sectors to develop a centre for exchanging information on biosafety.

Information about BD management and conservation, the implementation of the UN CBD and KP has been collected, edited, compiled and published regularly in environmental protection newspaper and on website: <http://www.nea.gov.vn>.

1.1.6 Investment in BD conservation

In Viet Nam, there have been two main sources of investment in BD conservation and sustainable development comprising of the state budget and international support. Some of private enterprises have also invested in BD conservation but very limited.

1.1.7 International integration in biodiversity conservation

So far, Viet Nam has received great supports from Governments of Sweden, Canada, Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium, Switzerland and Japan, etc for environmental protection in general and for BD conservation in particular.

International organizations especially UNDP, UNEP, WB, ADB, IUCN, WWF, UNIDO have closely co-operated with Viet Nam in environmental protection. International cooperation in BD conservation in Viet Nam has brought about significant achievements such as, inter alia, the Government, in collaboration with international donors, have successfully conducted many projects and programs that have significantly contributed to strengthening management and technical capacity of environmental protection agencies from central to local levels; improving of legal framework on BD; promoting hunger elimination and poverty reduction, and BD conservation and management supporting activities and especially capacity of all levels have been strengthened in Viet Nam. Up to now, about 15 special-use forest areas have been ranked as the principal prioritized

areas for international projects and 5 other special-use forest areas have received international technical assistance. The marine and wetland conservation areas have been paid much attention from international donors. Viet Nam has also been collaborating with neighboring countries such as Lao PDR, Cambodia, and China in conducting transboundary conservation and taking control over transboundary trading of wild plants and animals.

1.2 Capacity constraints and capacity needs for the implementation of the Convention

- Institutional structure and management

At present, BD management in Viet Nam has not been conducted in a well-matched manner. There is still lack of efficient coordination from the focal agencies and the sectoral collaboration between the state agencies responsible for national BD conservation. Moreover, the available resources and management mechanism has not been yet appropriate and the investment in BD has not yet been strategic and sufficient. At the present, BD management tasks have been assigned to different ministries and sectors and the division of tasks and responsibilities of these institutions has remained duplications and unclearance.

- Legal framework

Viet Nam has established a system of legal and institutional frameworks for stipulating and regulating such relations related to BD conservation and management. However, there has not existed a compatible and complete legal framework for ensuring CBD implementation and there remain a lot of unresolved issues and weakness in the legal and institutional frameworks on natural resources management. Firstly, there have existed too many legal documents with many inappropriate regulations. Secondly, the legal regulations on management and protection of BD resources are regulated scattered by different laws and regulations, decrees, overlapped or unclear and hence, the legal regulations have not been well enforced or enforced inefficiently and many BD resources in different regions of the country have not been managed.

The implementation of legal system in BD conservation has not been efficient. The functions and responsibilities of the competent implementing agencies of BD conservation areas (forest management, fishery management, border quarantine and customs, etc) must be decentralized and strengthened. The inspection and supervision of BD conservation has not been well implemented.

- Inefficiency of conservation measures

The conservation area system is an important basic for every country to effectively conserve BD. So far, Viet Nam has built 126 nature conservation areas. In 2003, the Prime Minister approved a Strategy to manage a system of Nature Reserves in Viet Nam to 2010. This Strategy includes a plan to develop a completed system of Nature Reserves (forest, wetland and marine).

The Ministry of Fishery has been proposing 20 marine conservation areas; MONRE has been proposing 68 wetland conservation areas. However, all proposals have been underway of preparation and submitting to the Government for approval. In other words, Viet Nam has not has a well-matched system of wetland conservation areas and areas for development of wetland. In addition, the great threats to BD usually derived from external factors such as the illegal introduction of wild animals, development of infrastructure in large scale, illegal exploitation of minerals and enlarging industrial plant forest, etc.

Institutional framework for protected areas has been developed and significant contributed to biodiversity conservation. However, there are a lot of issues need to be solved such as unclear allocation of roles and responsibilities of related agencies, leading to the ineffective management of protected areas. In addition, there is still lack of appropriate organizations to support the MARD for protected areas management.

- Communication and awareness enhancement

Although improvement of community's awareness on environmental protection and biodiversity has been conducted by many measures and through many activities, this activity has not focused on targeted groups but rather inclined toward formal performance. Hence, the efficiency has not been high and matched with the requirements. This work has not been translated into particular activities as expected. These shortcomings are presented in many aspects such as inadequate awareness of the responsibilities of BD protection of the leaders, managers, businessmen and communities. The inadequate awareness of BD protection together much behaviour degrades and deteriorates BD in an alarming level. The public has not been widely involved and mobilized in BD conservation. There is still lack of appropriate mechanisms to make community understand their roles and responsibilities in environmental protection activities.

- Information exchange

The collection, storage and processing and sharing of information about BD conservation and sustainable development is still limited. Information about BD conservation and sustainable development is scattered in different sectors and localities has not been managed in a systematic manner; the ability to process information of this type is not high; a great volume of information are kept in hard copies and the access is inconvenient for the public; information sharing between ministries and sectors, localities are inadequate; the quality of information is not high. The reasons of this are the lack of legal certainty for information sharing, for example the regulations on responsibilities and benefits of sharing information, copy right, the references and use of information, etc.

The BD database centre has not been built nationwide. There also has not been a feasible measure for information exchange on BD between research institutions and management agencies of all levels.

- Financial and investment mechanism

Investment efficiency for BD conservation remains low. The finance for BD in Viet Nam especially ODA that is considered to be high in comparison with that rate of other developing countries in the South East Asia. Nevertheless, the number of the projects that are assessed to be successful is not high. The investment for management issues especially for development of strategies and legal documents, enhancement of capacities of management of all levels both central and local level, enhancement of public awareness and BD investigation and assessment is inadequate. About nearly 90% of investment for BD is given to fundamental construction while the remained 10% is given to all activities directly relate to BD conservation and management.

Total investment is very low. In addition, both the state investment and ODA finance directly invested in the subject of investment has been very subjective. Capacities to receive investment have not been strengthened. The contribution of communities has not been actively mobilized. The existing funds such as environmental protection fund of Viet Nam, Viet Nam conservation fund, etc have not been well utilized and exploited.

Table 1. Capacity building needs for the implementation of UNCBD

Tasks	Capacity needs		
	Systemic level	Institutional Level	Individual Level
Improve institutional structure and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To delegate a functional agency to be focal point of BD management in the whole country. - To develop a proposal to establish a BD management agency - To develop a mechanism of sectoral biosafety coordination and management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To establish a national steering committee and an Office to coordinating the UNCBD. - To establish a decentralization and supporting mechanism for localities in managing biodiversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To educate about management skills
Improve a legal framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop of Biodiversity Law; - To develop regulations on use of genetic resources and benefit sharing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancing the operation of a drafting team of sectors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To organize short-term training courses on a system of legal documents on BD and

	<p>mechanism;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop regulations on property right of species and breeds. - To develop National Biodiversity Action Plan (revised BAP). - To promulgate and implementation arrangement of Cartagena Protocol Plan 		<p>basic principles to develop legal documents on BD.</p>
<p>Enhance efficiency of conservation measures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop management mechanisms which clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of related stakeholders. - To develop the annual plan for protected areas - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To strengthen wetland and marine conservation systems - To enhance ex-situ conservation methods; - To develop plans for agricultural BD conservation; - To develop models of community – based conservation - To develop a monitoring system of BD. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To organize training courses in conservation and monitoring measures
<p>Enhance communication and awareness raising</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To implement a national program on raising awareness of biosafety to 2010. - To develop and implement a long-term national communication strategy on the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop and implement activities to raise awareness of ministries, universities, institutes and NGOs. - To develop and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To enhance communication skills of staffs who works with the communities

	<p>importance of biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop a benefit-sharing mechanism of BD protection with the communities; - To integrate the principles of sustainable utilization, the environmentally and biologically friendly behaviours and ecosystem management in curricula of schools and then training teachers about the effective communication methods 	<p>disseminated community – based conservation. models</p>	
Enhance information exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop a national database on BD nation wide - To develop a clearing house mechanism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To facilitate a development of websites of every agency - To establish BD clearing house center (BCH). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To train the information processing staff
Enhance financial and investment mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To development mechanism to diversify investment sources for biological technology and biosafety - To more strategically invest in BD conservation - To integrate conservation and sustainable development support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support organizations in identifying priority of the sectors which need to be mobilized fund - To prioritize for sector projects/programs on biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To strengthen capacity for proposal development

	into the other prioritized areas of the donors (hunger elimination and poverty reduction, health, rural development)		
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2 United Nations Framework Convention On Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol (UNFCCC)

2.1 Achievements in implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention On Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol

2.1.1 *Hydrometeorological monitoring*

- Meteorological surface station network

Currently, the meteorological surface station network in Viet Nam consists of 168 stations. Meteorological surface stations conduct all or a part of meteorological element observations such as: weather phenomena, atmospheric pressure, wind, cloud, solar radiation, sun-shine duration, air and soil temperatures, rain, precipitation, humidity, and evaporation.

- Specialized meteorological station network

Specialized meteorological stations include 10 upper-air meteorological stations, 6 weather radar stations, 29 agro-meteorological stations, 21 marine hydro-meteorological stations, 396 rain-gauge sites, 232 gauging stations, and 154 stations and centres for monitoring air and water.

- Environment monitoring station network

The first environment monitoring station of Viet Nam was established in 1987. So far, environment monitoring station has developed into a systematic network comprising of:

- 1 ground atmospheric monitoring station belongs to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Basic Pollution Monitoring Network;
- 3 urban/industrial zone pollution monitoring stations;
- 22 rainfall and dust deposition sampling stations
- 51 river water quality monitoring stations.
- 48 salinity monitoring sites.
- 11 reservoir environment monitoring stations.
- 6 marine environment stations.

The environment factors observed are the following:

- Cumulated dust deposition, rainfall chemical compositions, SO₂, NO_x and CO.
- Hydro-chemical constituents (BOD, COD, pH, DO), heavy metals hydrocarbon, coliform, salinity.

In addition, Viet Nam has 3 stations to conduct observations on connective ozone and UV.

2.1.2 Observations and researches on climate change

Observations and researches on climate change in Viet Nam include:

- To preliminarily correct and edit specific characteristics of observed parameters of each meteorology station about each observation factor according to a standard procedure and set up a file of meteorology books and meteorology boards;
- To gather meteorology books and meteorology boards of all stations to National Documentation Center and to:
 - o Correct and edit all data on meteorology books and meteorology boards of all stations.
 - o To set up monthly and annual reviews on every observation factor in the whole network.
- To promulgate meteorological observation data on monthly hydro-meteorological magazines.
- To do preliminary research on and promulgate annual meteorological research results on annual hydro-meteorological characteristic magazines.
- To carry out researches on each special themes or subject on:
 - o To analyze year-after-year changes of characteristics of typical meteorological factors;
 - o To assess level of changes of each factor characteristics during the whole observation process;
 - o To identify climate anomalousness among the series of meteorological observations.
- To study climate changes over decades and define the sudden changes of principal climate factors in recent years or decades.
- To analyze and anticipate about the cycle of principal climate factors (temperature, rainfall, drought).

- Analyze and anticipate tendency of typical weather factors.

2.1.3 Development of the national GHG inventory system

The national GHG inventory has been carried out in the implementation of projects such as: Climate Change Train (1994 - 1996), ALGAS (1995 - 1997); Economics of GHG Limitation (1996 - 1998) and Viet Nam Initial National Communication for UNFCCC (1999 - 2002). The inventory assignments, in regular and irregular manners, are also referred to in the national action plan to implement UNFCCC

2.1.4 Development and implementation of options to mitigate impacts of climate change on the national economic sectors 1

Options to mitigate impacts of climate change has been developed in sectors of Water resources, Agriculture, Forestry Fisheries, Coastal zones, Energy and Transportation, Medicine and Human Health

2.1.5 Development of greenhouse gas mitigation policies and options

Viet Nam has had options of GHG reduction in the following main areas:

GHG Reduction Orientation in Energy

In order to implement national environmental policy in combination with GHG mitigation strategy, the principles of energy development strategy should be ensured: the maintenance of rapid, stable and sustainable economic growth and contribution to mitigation of GHG emission, protection of climate system. This principle should be implemented through following solutions:

- Efficient and economical use of energy;
- Development of new and renewable power forms;
- Economical use of energy in transportation.

GHG Reduction Orientation in Forestry

Forestry development orientation taking into account GHG mitigation of Viet Nam based on the Forestry Development Strategy for 2001 – 2020 of Viet Nam, implementing activities to mitigate emissions, enhancing GHG sinks. Orientations stated in this Strategy include:

- To promote the implementation of the program to plant 5 million hectares of forest effectively in order to increase the forest coverage to 43% by 2010 to 2020;
- To conserve and restore the existing forest;

¹ Detail information described in thematic reports

- To rehabilitate the combined forest;
- To prevent forest fire.

GHG Reduction Orientation in Agriculture

Agricultural development orientations taking into account GHG mitigation of Viet Nam are:

- Development and application of sustainable agricultural farming techniques to enhance the agricultural production and to mitigate GHG emissions.
- Improvement of irrigation-drainage management in rice fields.
- Strengthening the capacities of agriculture research institutions.
- Improving meal and eating tradition of the people so that the meal would include not only rice.

2.1.6 Transfer of environmentally friendly technology and application of appropriate instruments

During the initial years of UNFCCC implementation, Viet Nam has been transferred a number of important technical instruments to serve the following particular assignments:

- GHG inventory tool-kit included 3 volumes:
- Software serving strategic research and GHG mitigation options comprise of:
- Equipment to sample CH₄ in rice fields: this is a technical equipment to recover CH₄ in experiments to identify CH₄ emission amount in rice fields.

The unique technology advances that has been transferred to Viet Nam is the technology to generate electricity by thermal surplus in Ha Tien Cement Factory from 1999-2002.

These are the environmentally friendly technologies that will be transferred in the initial CDM projects of Viet Nam:

- Technology to treat waste for electricity generation (Ho Chi Minh city);
- Technology to recover and use associated drilling gas (Rang Dong oil well);
- Technology to improve energy efficiency in Thanh Hoa Beverage Company.

2.1.7 Promoting researches, deploying and enhancing the use of new and renewable energy sources

Viet Nam has conducted the research, application and utilization of new and renewable energy sources as following:

- Research and development of solar energy
- Research on and development of wind energy
- Research on and development of small and micro hydro-power plants
- Development and application of biogas and biomass
- Geo-thermal energy

2.1.8 Scientific research and consultancy and information management to implement United Nations framework convention on climate change and Kyoto protocol

Scientific research and consultancy

Viet Nam is completely capable to do scientific research and consultancy to meet commitments of UNFCCC as follow:

Organizations studying hydrometeorology

Viet Nam has carried out many activities on scientific researches of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) as follow:

- The World Weather Watch Program (WWWP).
- The World Climate Program (WCP).
- The Atmospheric Research and Environment Program (AREP).
- The Applied Meteorology Program (AMP).
- The Hydrology and Water Resources Program (HWRP).

Researching on and putting new energy into practice

Viet Nam has carried out research on potentials of solar radiation and wind energy, biomass, small and medium hydro power plants. A program on developing small and medium hydro power plants has been actively implementing and involved many private enterprises. In addition, developing wind power has also been remarkably considered. An array of towers for measuring wind at the height of 40 – 65m have been built. Two projects on wind-power plants of industrial scale have been implementing: One has been being in preparation and feasible study; the other with one tower of 850kW has been built and effectively operating. Water-boiling facilities by solar energy have been commercialized. In mountainous and remote areas, many solar-battery-panels of 120 KWp have been installed. The domestic use of biogas has been increasing. Recently, tens of thousand of biogas digesters have been built and about 180,000 ones are expected

to be built nationwide in coming time. Attention has been paid to combining types of recycled energy into a stable energy-supply-system through some projects.

Researching on and step by step finalizing GHG inventory methodology

Viet Nam has carried out research on GHG inventory methodology of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) right since 1993-1994. Since 1995, Viet Nam has received IPCC guidance on this matter, upon which, GHG inventory procedure of Viet Nam has been developed.

Viet Nam has carried out experimental research on CH₄ emission in rice paddies in typical areas of the North Delta and the South Central coastal provinces. The results are transmitted to Center for research on CH₄ emission in wetland rice paddies of Asia and contribute to finalize and perfect coefficients of CH₄ emission in wetland rice paddies of IPCC.

Anticipating GHG emission amount for the coming decades

Within framework of ALGAS project and “the economics of GHG mitigation” project, Viet Nam has estimated GHG emission in 2000, 2010, 2020 and 2030 basing on arrangements of anticipation researches on development orientations of national economic sectors that are in closest relations with GHG emission including:

- Economic development forecast till 2030 to serve environmental research (Institute of Strategic Development, Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI)).
- Master plan of Gas in Viet Nam (Institute of Strategic Development, Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI)).
- Overall electricity development diagram during 1996-2000 taking into consideration the prospects to 2010 (Institute of Energy, Ministry of Industry);
- Energy development orientations and environmental issues during 1995-2010-2020 (Institute of Energy, Ministry of Industry);
- Viet Nam Forestry Sector - Current status and development orientation for 1996-2010 (Forestry Inventory and Planning Institute, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development);
- Viet Nam agriculture development orientations to 2000 - 2010 (National Institute of Agriculture Planning and Projection - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development).
- Researches on GHG mitigation options with lowest costs in sectors mainly derived from the project “The economic aspects of GHG mitigation”.
- To study CDM project cycle in Viet Nam

Information management relating to climate change

To receive and exchange international information

Like other parties to UNFCCC, Viet Nam is informed of information related to UNFCCC by the following institutions:

- The COP: The COP meets every year and is the "supreme body" of the Convention. It is an association of all the countries that are Parties to the Convention review UNFCCC implementation and making necessary decisions for efficient UNFCCC implementation.
- The UNFCCC Secretariat: Specific tasks include the preparation of official documents for the COP, acts as a supporting body of COP responsible for the coordination of In-Depth Reviews of Annex I Party national communications, gather and share information on greenhouse gas emissions, national policies and best practices in accordance with UNFCCC articles.
- The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI): to assist COP to assess UNFCCC implementation.
- The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA): give advice to the COP and other supporting bodies in scientific issues related to UNFCCC.
- The World Weather Watch Organization (WWWO): frequently receives and exchange regular and irregular meteorology data with countries that are parties to it on weather, extremes, meteorological anomalousness and calamities.
- Through many websites and international conferences and workshops.

Information system related to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

- Environmental hydrometeorology information

The national hydrometeorology center is an agency that arranges, manages and arrange hydro-meteorological observations, records, corrects and edits and reports on hydro-meteorological information in general and on natural calamities in particular (flood, drought, etc) to national information management and publication agencies such as: Statistical Documentation Center, General Statistical Office of Viet Nam (GSO) and statistical agencies and organizations of other countries.

- Socio-economic information

Almost information of socio-economic sectors can be provided by GSO - A state agency with functions to compile and publish statistical yearbook, other statistical products of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. In addition, Provincial

Statistics Offices in provinces/cities and District Statistics Offices in districts and towns also compile and publish local statistical socio-economic information.

- Special information related to climate change

Much of information related to climate change is not widely popularized in Statistical Yearbooks at both central and local levels. Information of this kind can only be accessed in the special research institutes (Institute of Development Strategy, Institute of Energy, Forest Inventory and Planning Institute, Agriculture Planning and Development Institute, etc). In addition, data on solid, liquid and industrial wastes can be accessed in local Departments of Natural Resources and Environment.

- Information about UNFCCC implementation

Information about UNFCCC implementation are collected, corrected and edited, recorded, compiled and published regularly internally or in form of a national communication to COP, UNFCCC agencies, etc. Recently, Viet Nam has had a website for posting important information about the management, criteria and development of CDM projects, etc. All information about UNFCCC can be easily accessed through Office of Ozone layer protection and climate change.

2.1.9 Economic and financial mechanism for implementation of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Kyoto protocol

So far, financial sources for UNFCCC and KP implementation activities that have been and would be received include:

- The State budget
- Finance source of GEF and international organizations
- CDM projects

2.1.10 Strengthening education system, raising awareness of communities and enhancing capacity of mass media

Education related to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol

So far, Viet Nam's education on climate change has brought about the following results:

- (1) Development of key forces of climate change sciences and skills to implement UNFCCC
- (2) Training the National Team on Climate Change
- (3) Training professional experts in skills on climate change

- (4) To arrange extracurricular activities in: Hue University, Ha Tay Forestry University, Technical University, Ho Chi Minh National Agriculture and Forestry University, etc.
- (5) Several graduation theses and dissertations have been studied and written on subjects of climate change and application technology of climate change in the process of training bachelors and masters in a number of universities, colleges and vocational training schools
- (6) Almost closed projects especially GEF/SGP projects have properly focused on community education on environmental issues in general and climate change issues in particular.
- (7) Tens of technical seminars and workshops on various special thematic areas of climate change (GHG inventory, assessments of climate change impacts, development of GHG mitigation options, development of GEF and CDM projects, etc).
- (8) Several documents have been published to serve research on climate change and relating issues
- (9) Many scientific reports on climate change have been posted and published in hydro-meteorological magazines, Sciences on the Earth magazines, Scientific and Technical research and application magazines, etc.

Mass-media communication

The achievements in mass-media are as follow:

- (1) Many popular articles on climate change have been posted in daily and weekly newspapers or broadcast in radio station.
- (2) To develop a number of video compact disks or records with appropriate, vivid and easily understandable contents and broadcasting on the Central Television or on the radio station.
- (3) To publish and disseminate the regular and irregular bulletins on UNFCCC, current UNFCCC and KP implementation in Viet Nam and in the globe.
- (4) To organize news conference in the valid date of KP with the attendance of more than 100 journalists.
- (5) To participate in the trade fairs of CDM projects in Cologne (Germany) in 2005.

2.1.11 International cooperation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change And Kyoto Protocol implementation in Viet Nam

The international cooperation in UNFCCC and KP implementation in Viet Nam can be briefly summarized in two following phases:

The preparation for signing the UNFCCC

Since the General Department of Hydrometeorology became the official member of WMO, it has been assigned to be the focal point for international cooperation and issues related to meteorology and hydrology, hải văn, and environment (air and water).

In 1998, IPCC was established. After that Viet Nam was invited to participate every meeting of IPCC and Ad-hoc working groups I, II, III in order to prepare the document of UNFCCC. In 1992, in the World Summit on Environment and Development of United Nations, Viet Nam delegation led by the Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh has signed UNFCCC together with other 144 countries.

After being the United Nations Framework Convention On Climate Change signatory

After signing UNFCCC, Viet Nam has deployed UNFCCC implementation with many international cooperation activities as follows:

- To received the project “*Climate change train*” and cooperated with UNITAR consultants to organize training sections on climate change, UNFCCC and develop the National Action Plan to implement UNFCCC.
- Together with other 11 Asia countries to implement "*Asia Least-Cost Greenhouse Gas Abatement Strategy*" (ALGAS) Project with other 7 countries representing for four continents (Asia, Europe, Africa, America) to implement an Economics of GHG mitigation project.
- To receive UNEP’s finance to develop the Initial National Communication on UNFCCC of Viet Nam.
- To receive finance of WB and Australia to implement the project of National Strategic Research on CDM.

Presently, three international cooperated and supported CDM projects in Viet Nam have been conducted to strengthen CDM capacities in Viet Nam and facilitate the implementation of measures to response to climate change in prioritized areas and enhancing a participation of Viet Nam, Lao and Campuchia in CDM implementation.

Together with implementing the above projects, Viet Nam has participated in meetings of COP, SBSTA and SBI.

After UNFCCC was signed and came into force, Viet Nam has been participating in activities of IPCC and the Ad-hoc working groups I, II, III to develop the second and third national communication on climate change.

For climate change, Viet Nam also cooperates with other Asian countries not only in regional projects but also in activities conducted by meteorological and global physical sub-committee.

Viet Nam also has good co-operation with China, India in exchanging experts, consultants specialized in climate change research and CH₄ experimental observations in wetland rice paddies.

2.1.12 National programs directly related to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol

Directly related to UNFCCC and KP implementation, there are the following programs, plans, projects and measures:

- A national action plan on energy saving and efficient use
- GHG mitigation options in transportation sector
- The five million hectares of afforestation
- Options and plans to mitigate GHG in agriculture sector

2.2 Capacity constraints and capacity needs for the implementation of the Convention

(1) Legal documents on climate change are incomplete

Viet Nam has promulgated number of legal documents relates to climate change such as National Orientation Strategy for Sustainable Development in Vietnam (Vietnam Agenda 21), National Strategy for Environmental Protection until 2010 and vision toward 2020 (2004), Strategy for Forestry development in 2001-2010 (2002); GHG mitigation strategy in forestry sector, strategy for development of transport sectors, etc. In addition, legal framework related to the implementation of the three the Conventions has been formed such as the Law on Environmental Protection (2005), Law on Forest Development and Protection (2004), Law on Water Resources (1998), etc. However, the integration of climate change in the policies, programs and development plans are still stricted as follow:

- The legal framework on climate change, particularly laws on energy – have not been complete;
- The state management system on climate change from central to grass-root levels has not been properly strengthened;
- There have been remained issues in integrating climate change into policies, programs, and plans to develop national economic sectors;
- Information dissemination on climate change including on impacts thereof to the national economy has not been conducted regularly and the methods of communication has not been varied.

- Climate change has not been popularized and disseminated to policy makers, the developer of programs and plans to develop national economic sectors;
- Economic experts who are competent in climate change activities have not been gathered to integrate climate change into policies and plan to develop an economy.

(2) Research on measures to response and adapt with climate change is still restricted

Even the rresearch on measures to response and adapt with climate change have achieved some certain results, there are still a lot of capacity constrains as follow:

- Climate change response and adaptation has not been approached systematically and consistently.
- Capacity of sectors, levels and national rescue agencies is limited. ;
- Training on measures to response and adapt with climate change has not been conducted by institutions
- There have not many competent and experienced officials to do research on measures to response and adapt with climate change;
- People do not know much about measures to response and adapt with climate change

(3) Information dissemination and awareness raising

Capacity constraints which relates to information dissemination and awareness raising are as follow:

- Information dissemination and awareness raising on climate change and the impact of climate change in the national economic sectores have not been conducted frequently and the mode of communication is not varied. Workshops, training courses and dialogues have not targeted to wide range of audience.
- Resources (infrastructure, facilities, human and financial) have not been sufficient for disseminating information on and rising awareness of climate change
- The potential contribution of stakeholders in disseminating information and improving knowledge of climate change has not been taken into full play. Sectors and levels have not given considerable concerns about and have not been capable to disseminate information on and enhance awareness of climate change
- There has not been a national action plan to disseminate information and enhance awareness of climate change;

- There is a lack of well-qualified consultants on communication.

(4) Development of the portfolio of potential projects is restricted

Capacity constraints which relates to development of potential projects are as follow:

- There has not been much forum on information dissemination in developing project proposals, drawing lessons and finding appropriate solutions to strengthen capacity to develop projects. Finance given to strengthen capacity to develop projects is limited, mostly internationally supported;
- Capacity to develop and implement projects on climate change of sectors and levels is limited;
- There have not been many consultants who are competent in skills to develop and implement projects on climate change in various areas. International consultants have not been actively involved.

Capacity needs to solve the 4 main issues are presented in **Table 2**

Table 2. Capacity needs for the implementation of UNFCCC

Tasks	Capacity needs		
	Systemic level	Institutional Level	Individual Level
Improve legal system on climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To establish complete legal framework on energy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To strengthen capacity to develop legal documents on climate change of sectors and levels. - To mainstream climate change on economic policies and development plan of national economy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To strengthen capacity of consultants on climate change
Research on measures to response and adapt with climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To pay much attention to the measures to response to and adapt with climate change in developing a national action plan to implement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop projects on responses to climate change and advocate for GEF's finance. - To convene workshops on impacts of climate change and response measures in different regions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To enhance the capacity of research staff on climate change impacts and measures to adapt with climate change

	UNFCCC		
Information dissemination and awareness raising	- To develop and implement the communication plan on climate change	- To co-operate with news-agencies to implement this activity	- To compile and edit document related to climate change so that they are appropriate with different target groups
Development of the portfolio of potential projects	- To focus on this activity in the national action plan	- To enhance the capacity of organization in development of project proposal	- To establish a group of consultants to provide advices on developing projects on sectors and localities. - To train specialized staff on skills to develop project concepts and develop projects on climate change.

3 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

3.1 Achievements in implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

UNCCD implementation in Vietnam officially started since in late 1998 and consists of setting up management system, establishing NAP and further perfecting legal environment to favour the UNCCD implementation.

3.1.1 *Setting up management system*

- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) was designated to be National Focal Point (NFP).
- National Coordination Body (NCB) established comprising representatives from Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), Ministry of Finance (MOFI), Government Office (OG), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOA), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and Chaired by a Vice-Minister of MARD with the support from Science and Technology Advisory Group

(STAG) which consists of national and international experts specializing on different areas concerned. NCB Office is located at Department of Forestry.

3.1.2 *Preparation of National Action Programme (NAP)*

- Six national conferences and meetings were held to discussing on UNCCD implementation with the participation of Ministries, sectors and institutions, organizations concerned inside and outside of the country.
- NFP with the technical support of STAG has collaborated with ministries/sectors and international consultants to prepare National Reports on the UNCCD implementation, which were sent to the 5th Conference of the Parties (COP5) and the 1st Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC1) in 2000 and 2002 respectively. NAP was prepared in 2002 as a component of the national integrated socio-economic and environment conservation plan with the 4 priority issues namely as a) Forest development; b) Land use management; c) Water resources management - drought mitigation and, d) Hunger eradication and poverty alleviation.

3.1.3 *Mobilizing partners and implementing projects*

- While actively seeking for UNCCD own partners, NFP and NCB has taken advantages of the backstopping support from the Forest Sector Support Programme and Partnership (FSSP& P) and the Natural Disaster Mitigation Partnership (NDM-Partnership) as a communication point to mobilize the international support for UNCCD implementation. There were 4 of 23 partnerships in FSSP&P providing expertise and financial support for NAP preparation
- During the NAP improvement, some important programmes/projects (5MHRP, and HEPAP, NAPE 1991-2010) have been implemented as integrated components of NAP.

3.1.4 *Propagation on UNCCD and NAP*

- UNCCD documents have been disseminated to related ministries/sectors to UNCCD implementation at central and local levels. Activities of propagation, agitation, education about combating desertification, environment conservation and hunger eradication and poverty alleviation have been frequently and actively promote through mass media and conferences/workshops .

3.1.5 *Technical cooperation and information exchange*

- Partnerships network for NAP implementation have been established

- Technical meetings, workshops on combating desertification have been organized to share and exchange information during the implementation of UNCCD.
- Participated in COP and CRIC of UNCCD
- Participated in jointed RAP/SRAP:

NAPE and NAP were developed towards integration with the South-East Asia and the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) in the regional environment protection. Some projects in Vietnam related to region and sub-region are as follow:

- Afforestation for sand dune fixation project in Central Coast funded by Government of Japan with total budget of about \$15 million and project area of 12,000 ha.
- RETA-5771 ((Regional Environmental Technical Assistance 5771) for “*Poverty Reduction & Environmental Management in Remote Greater Mekong Sub-region Watersheds*” funded by Government of Finland (Phase I, 1998-1999) and ADB (Phase II, 2000-2001) covering Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Yun nan province (China).
- Sustainable resources management in Lower Mekong Basin Project funded by GTZ and covering the same as RETA project.
- Programme for Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Certificate, which Vietnam participated in developing criteria, indicators and indexes of ASEAN and Vietnam. Some forest management models with FSC certificate will be established by 2005.
- Vietnam national scientific institutions were assigned to participate in Thematic Programme Network (TPN) of Asian Region as TPN1 for M&E of desertification process, TPN2 for studying Agro-forestry and Preventing land degradation, TPN3 for studying on Savanna and combating sand moving, TPN5 for strengthening capacity on forecasting drought and desertification, TPN6 for local integrated development programmes.

3.1.6 Survey and research study

A completed system has been established from central to local level for forest resources assessment and monitoring. Many research study projects have been conducted on releasing deforestation, increasing sustainable forest management in Northern upland provinces and Central highlands, improving degraded soils in mountainous provinces and limiting sulfatization and stalinization in coastal provinces, combating moving sand dune in coastal provinces, managing water resources in arid and semi-arid areas in the Central, developing forecast system to limit negative impacts of drought in rural and upland areas.

3.1.7 *Hunger eradication and poverty alleviation*

Several commune centers have been established since 1996 which have positive effects for socio-economic development in the communes.

The hunger eradication and poverty alleviation has significantly contributed to overcome the uncontrolled migration and reduce the exploitation of forest for cultivation and illegal reclamation of potential land areas.

Job opportunities and extra income for local people has been achieved which actively contributed in hunger eradication and poverty alleviation in upland areas.

3.1.8 *International cooperation*

With closely linked with action programmes in Asean-Pacific region and Southeast Asia, the 5MHRP have been got support commitments from 24 international donors. Therefore, the international fund would be able to increase up to 2010.

However, the Regional and Sub-regional obligations have not yet been implemented so much except some projects had been implemented under previous cooperation programme as Water resources management, GMS Environment conservation in GMS...

3.2 Capacity constraints and capacity needs for the implementation of the Convention

The main capacity issues for the implementation of UNCCD are as follow:

- (1) Legal and policy framework is not completed, lack of harmonization between conservation and development.
 - The legal documents are still not appropriate in actual situations and sectors which limits the mobilization of local resources and community in natural resource management in general and combat desertification in particular;
 - In the area of land management, the policies is easy to become backward;
 - Certain legal documents which encourage the participation of community in combat desertification are not appropriate and need to be revised;
 - Lack of control and monitor the implementation of legal documents which lead to the ineffective implementation of those documents;
 - Quality of many programs/plans is not high enough and still lack of integration between development and environmental protection, forest development and protection and combat desertification
 - NAP was developed from 2002. However, it is still in approval progress.
- (2) Capacity for natural resource management is restricted

- Capacity for policy and legal document development, information access of staffs is restricted
 - Skills for combat desertification planning and monitoring are restricted
 - Forecast of desertification trends in different areas is not accurate;
 - Land management is still inclined to estate management rather than natural resource management
 - Land planning is not comprehensive and still lack of agreement among three planning level. There is still a lot of suspended planning.
 - State management capacity of provinces, districts and communes is very restricted which can not meet the current demands;
 - The number of staffs who are in charge of natural management at the local level, especially in districts level is very rare;
 - Lack of long-term plan for training and education to enhance the capacity of natural resource management for management staffs;
 - Lack of cross mechanisms for inspection of natural resource management activities.
- (3) Lack of information system for planning, monitoring and forecasting desertification
- Lack of database system on land degradation and desertification, especially in forestry sector;
 - Lack of mechanism for information sharing
 - Information management system is insufficient
- (4) Technical cooperation for implementation of projects/programs on combat desertification (national and international) is restricted
- Technical cooperation is restricted, especially in land potential assessment and identification of suitable cultivation structure for different type of land;
 - Lack of advanced facilities for research and technology transfer
 - The research for combat desertification has been conducted by many organizations. However, the results have not been applied in actual situation.
 - The practical aspects in research and study is restricted and lack of technology transfer for the community;
 - The multi-sectors approach and the collaboration among the social researchers, the economists and technical experts is not strong;

- The implementation of committed obligations in the region is still ineffective.
- (5) Lack of financial resources for the obligations' implementation and the ineffective utilization of the resources.
- The financial resource for researches and application of research results to reduce the land desertification is restricted
 - The private sector has not actively participate in combat desertification activities
 - Lack of suitable condition and technical facilities for combat desertification activities;
 - The budget allocation between central and local level for combat desertification is not detail enough;
 - The utilization of financial resource is not effective while the social cost for combat desertification activities is quite large.

Table 3. Capacity needs for the implementation of UNCCD

Tasks	Capacity needs		
	Systemic level	Institutional Level	Individual Level
Improve legal and policy framework for combat desertification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop and improve the management mechanisms and policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To strengthen capacity for drafting of legal document and the capacity for effective implementation of policies and legal document - To enhance the planning capacity at institutional level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To strengthen skill for analysing and planning of policies, legal document programs and plans. - To strengthen skill for monitor and evaluation - To strengthen capacity for information searching and processing
Enhance the capacity for natural resource management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To enhance the number and capacity of management staffs; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To equip the knowledge at local level - To develop the implementation plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To equip the knowledge and management skills - To equip the skills for analysis, assessment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To strengthen capacity for land management as a natural resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> based on the need from local level. - To enhance the multi-sector and cross-sector collaboration 	and forecast.
Development of information system for planning, monitoring and early forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop the mechanism for information exchange 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop the database on land, water, forest and socio-economic and environmental situation in the affected or to be subjected to land degradation areas or - To develop information system from central to local level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To enhance the capacity for information accessing and processing
Strengthen technical cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop the plan for strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of research and study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To enhance the effectiveness of knowledge transfer activities - To enhance the collaboration among research organizations/units - To develop information sharing system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To enhance the research capacity - To enhance the problem-solving in the multi-sector approaches
Enhance the utilization of financial resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop the mechanism for diversification of financial resources - To mobilize the participation of private sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To enhance the capacity for analysing, assessing and identifying the priority areas which can mobilize the financial resources from the donors. - To enhance the capacity for effective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To enhance the applicability of research results in practice to reduce the investment budget. - To equip the staff with the capacity for development of programs, plans and

		utilization of financial resources.	projects
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PART V: CROSS-CUTTING CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AREAS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SYNERGIES RELATED TO THREE RIO CONVENTIONS

The thematic reports of 3 Rio Convention has analysed the capacity constraints and capacity building needs for each Convention. The 3 thematic reports also has identified 05 main issues which relates to all 3 Conventions as following:

(1) Low knowledge and awareness on the three conventions

The important of promotion and enhancement of environmental awareness are mentioned in all three conventions as a priority obligation to convention joined members. In Vietnam, these activities have been conducted in many years with the purpose of increasing the knowledge and awareness of people on their role and responsibility on environmental protection in general and the implementation of the three conventions were also obtained some results. However, environmental knowledge and awareness of officials and communities are still low. Environmental protection issues in general and that relevant to the three conventions in particular aren't considered as important issues, even is disregarded in comparison with socio-economic development activities.

(2) Development and implementation of policies, plans, programmes and projects related to the three conventions aren't good so effectiveness and validity aren't high

The development and implementation of national policies, plans, programmes related to the three conventions mentioned in all the three conventions are essential requirement and obligation of each country. So far, in Vietnam, the development of national strategies, plans and programmes and legal framework (policies and laws) for implementation of the above three conventions has initial achievements. However, capacity related issue cross-cutting these conventions is that quality, validity and effectiveness of the implementation of the provided national plans, programmes, legal framework is still restricted.

(3) Coordination between the related ministries, sectors, between central and local agencies is still ineffective

At the moment the coordination between the ministries, agencies and sectors at the central level, between the departments, agencies and sectors at the provincial/city levels, as well as between central and local levels and between localities is still ineffective. Meanwhile environmental problems are complicated with great impacts; therefore there should be an efficient cross-sectoral coordination mechanism if these problems are to be solved. This is also a

challenge for the environmental management in general and the implementation of the Rio conventions in particular in Vietnam in the years to come.

(4) Information, data collection and management are still weak

This is crosscutting issues which is not only relates to the three conventions but also the common problem in other field in Vietnam. Currently, some information in the form of thematic reports, research works, scientific research themes, investigation projects, etc. were conducted by individuals and organizations funded by the Government, international organizations is scattered located in different offices without full statistics and effective use. The environmental monitoring stations are insufficient in number. The equipments currently are still not meeting a requirement of data survey and environmental monitoring. The hydro meteorological stations for climate change monitoring are relatively sufficient. However, the equipment of some stations isn't modern improved. Beside, the information sharing mechanism between relevant ministries/sectors, agencies are still constrained.

(5) The monitoring and assessment of the activity results are still formal

Up to now, the monitoring and assessment of the activity results of the three conventions in Vietnam have not been put into full play. For example, for UNCBD, there has not been any comprehensive observation and assessment programme on biodiversity and biosafety. The only programme of this kind is for assessing the changes of forest resources in which only forest and forest resources (including terrestrial invertebrate and forest plants) and but the other biological resources are assessed. The assessment of this thematic area is insufficient and not update. Similar to this, for UNCCD, the monitoring and assessment are still spare, irregular and ineffective so that there has not been information, data system for monitoring and assessment.

The capacity needs to deal with the above 05 mentioned issues are presented in following Table.

Duties	Capacity Need		
	Systemic level	Institutional Level	Individual Level
Awareness and knowledge on 03 conventions.	- Developing necessary mechanisms and policies to ensure benefits of community when participating in the environmental protection activities.	- Building, developing and duplicating models of economic development taking into account environmental protection activities. - Integrating environment	- Developing training plan on communication methodologies for promotion staff.

		protection activities of three Conventions to activities of socio-political organizations.	
Development and implementation of laws, policies, plans and programmes related to 03 conventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrating environmental issues and requirements (such as climate change, biodiversity conservation and prevention of land degradation) into the master plans and programmes to develop the national economy, at the same time, improving technology and technical abilities for implementing the programmes - Develop new laws (such as Law on biodiversity, on energy security, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further strengthening the management systems and capacity for the legal executive institutions by making the functions and responsibilities of these institutions clear. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing skills for policy planners and policy analyzers - Developing skills for managerial officials of national institutions, NGOs that relate to the use of resources.
The collaboration between relevant ministries and sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing a coordination mechanism among relevant ministries, sectors, localities and institutions so as to implement the cross-cutting actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening operation mechanism for 3 national focal points of 03 conventions. - Building decentralization and supporting mechanism for localities. 	
Data collection and management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing regulations on information sharing and exchange between related stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparing database system relating to 03 conventions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening and enhancing capacity for information analyzing and processing for staff of relevant sectors/organizati

			ons.
Monitoring and evaluation.	- Developing monitoring, observation and evaluation plans for the performance of three conventions	- Developing the system of environmental indicators for reports of environmental state and systematizing them by providing guidance on the implementation thereof from central to local levels.	- Develop training plan on methodologies for monitoring, observations and evaluation.

PART VI: VIETNAM'S STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN FOR GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Viet Nam is a member of almost MEAs with the respective obligations and rights. Fulfillment of obligations of the MEAs also means that the fulfillment of global environmental management. Following is the strategic action plan for global environmental management in 2006 – 2010 and vision to 2020.

1. Basic for development of strategic action plan

- Commitments of Viet Nam for fulfillment of obligations of multi Environmental Agreement (MEAs)
- Capacity building needs for global environmental management in 2006 – 2010 which has been recognized through the “National Self Capacity Assessment” process supported by UNDP and GEF

2. Strategic principles and orientations

2.1 National ownership and leadership: High degree of commitment from key players such as MONRE, MARD and the relevant line ministries to the capacity development process is critical for positive results. However, the government leadership with focal point as MONRE will be important aspects.

2.2. Multi-stakeholder consensus and decision-making: Capacity development decisions should involve multiple stakeholders and be derived from broad-based consensus to the extent possible. Consultative and participatory process is essential to foster broad-based consensus.

2.3. Holistic approach to capacity building: All dimensions – the systemic, the institutional and the individual – of capacity need attention. Therefore, there is a need to establish a good balance between all the three dimensions. Capacity development efforts must be linked to the broader environmental management and sustainable development needs as reflected in Vietnam's National Strategy for Environmental Protection until 2010 and Vision Toward 2020, Agenda 21 and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of Viet Nam.

2.4 Integration of capacity building in wider efforts to achieve sustainable development: Capacity development must be integrated with ongoing initiatives to enhance capacities for broader environmental managements and for sustainable development in general

2.5 Promotion of partnerships and collaboration: Capacity development efforts will require concerted effort that draws upon the comparative advantages of multiple stakeholders to maximize impact and create synergies.

2.6 Flexibility: Capacity development efforts should have the flexibility, without losing the focus of purpose, to respond to changing circumstances and needs. Adaptive management of resources for capacity development is essential to allow such flexibility.

3. Strategic objectives

3.1. Overall objective

The strategic action plan has been formulated with the overall objective to strengthen the systemic, institutional and individual capacities of Vietnam for effective implementation of the Rio Convention obligations consistent with national circumstances and needs for sustainable development

3.2. Specific objectives

(1) Enhance the awareness and knowledge of different levels, sectors and community on the obligations and rights of Viet Nam as a member of MEAs

(2) Strengthen capacity for development and implementation of policies, programmes and projects which relates to MEAs

(3) Develop the effective collaboration among related stakeholders for implementation of MEAs and establish the closely cooperation with the respective international organizations

(4) Enhance the application of IT for data management and the availability, and accuracy of information which relates with MEAs and the connection with information system and database in the country and in the world.

(5) Establish the effective result-based monitoring system for performance evaluation of 3 Rio Conventions.

4. Activities for achievement of strategic objectives

4.1. Activities for achievement of objective 1: Enhance the awareness and knowledge of different levels, sectors and community on the obligations and rights of Viet Nam as a member of MEAs

Order	Capacity Development Activity	Level of Priority	Implementation Timeframe	Responsible Institution(s)
1	Develop mass media communication programs on obligation and rights of Viet Nam as a member of MEAs	High	Midium-term	MONRE, MARD, MOE, mass-media organizations
2	Provide in-depth training for staffs of MEAs focal points	High	Short-term	MONRE, MEAs focal points

3	Integrate global environmental issues in curriculum at all level of Viet Nam	Medium	Long- term	MOE, MONRE, MARD, MOFA
4	Strengthen capacity for communication staffs who participate in the environmental communication activities	High	Short-term	MONRE, mass-media organizations

4.2. Activities for achievement of objective 2: Strengthen capacity for development and implementation of policies, programmes and projects which relates to MEAs

Order	Capacity Development Activity	Level of Priority	Implementation Timeframe	Responsible Institution(s)
1	Legalize the obligations for MEAs implementaion in legal documents of Viet Nam	High	Short-term	MOJ, MOFA, MONRE, MARD and related Ministries/Sectors
2	Provide training on global environmental management and implementation of MEAs for staffs who is in charge of planning and implementing socio-economic development policies of Viet Nam	High	Long-term	MONRE and related Ministries/Sectors
3	Strengthen capacity, skills and knowledge of global environmental management for organizations who in charge of providing consultation, planning and implementing of policies, strategies, plans, programmes and projects for global environmental management of Viet Nam	Medium	Long-term	Related Ministries/Sectors and organizations

4.3. Activities for achievement of objective 3: Develop the effective collaboration among related stakeholders for implementation of MEAs and establish the closely cooperation with respective international organizations

Order	Capacity Development Activity	Level of Priority	Implementation Timeframe	Responsible Institution(s)
1	Establish national focal point who is responsible for coordination among MEAs' focal points	High	Short-term	MONRE, MARD, MOFA, Office of Government
2	Strengthen resources and operation mechanisms for focal points of each Convention	High	Long-term	MONRE, MARD, MOFA, Office of Government

4.4. Activities for achievement of objective 4: Enhance the application of IT for data management, the availability, accuracy of information which relates with MEAs and the connection of information system and database in the country with information and database in the world.

Order	Capacity Development Activity	Level of Priority	Implementation Timeframe	Responsible Institution(s)
1	Establish the mechanism for information gathering and exchange among Ministers/Sectors which relates with the implementation of MEAs	High	Medium term	MONRE and related Ministries/Sectors
2	Establish and maintain official channel for information exchanges among focal points of MEAs	High	Long-term	MONRE, MARD and related Ministries/Sectors
3	Develop database for MEAs	High	Long-term	Focal points of MEAs

4.5. Activities for achievement of objective 5: Establish the effective result-based monitoring system for performance evaluation of 3 Rio Conventions

Order	Capacity Development Activity	Level of Priority	Implementation Timeframe	Responsible Institution(s)
1	Develop evaluation criteria and manual to provide guidances for monitoring and evaluation of MEAs' implementation	High	Short-term	MONRE, MARD and related Ministries/Sectors
2	Equip the staffs who is responsible for monitoring and evaluation with the methodology for result-base evaluation	High	Medium-term	MONRE, MARD and related Ministries/Sectors

1 Resource Mobilization and Sustainability Strategy

Based on the proposed strategic action plan, MONRE, MARD and related Ministers/Sectors will develop the specific projects for priority capacity needs to mobilize the resources from Vietnamese government, GEF and potential sponsors in the area of capacity building for environmental protection. The budget could be mobilized from following sources:

5.1. State budget

Article 111 of Law on Environmental Protection has defined that the state budget for environmental protection shall be used for the following purposes: (a) investment in the development of public environmental protection infrastructures; (b) regular expenditure for environmental governance which consists of appropriate rates for strengthening national capacity for environmental management integrated with capacity for implementation of MEAs; as a co-finance for projects on strengthening capacity for global environmental management.

5.2. Viet Nam Environmental Protection Fund

Viet Nam Environmental Fund is a state financial organization with function to provide funds for environmental protection activities. The Fund was established under the Decision number 82/2002/QĐ-TTg dated 26th June 2002 of Prime Minister. The MONRE is responsible for management of the fund according to the Decree No 91/2002/ND-CP dated 11th November 2002 of Government.

Viet Nam Environmental Protection Fund serve as financial sources for programs/projects, activities, tasks for environmental protection in the whole countries and also has priority policy to support the projects/programs for strengthening global environmental management mentioned in Part IV of the Strategy.

5.3. GEF Support

Global Environmental Facility (GEF) provide fund to projects and programs that protect the global environment. This fund can be exploited to strengthen global environmental management capacity of Viet Nam. Viet Nam has also committed to utilize the appropriate fund of Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) for implementation of projects on strengthening national capacity for global environmental management

5.4. Support from international organizations and other countries governments

The resources for strengthening national capacity for global environmental management of Viet Nam can be mobilized through the ISGE and the multilateral and bilateral forums. It is a potential resource since the sponsored projects of international organizations in Viet Nam always have the component for strengthening capacity for environmental management.

2 Monitoring and evaluation of the Action Plan implementation

Monitoring is a process of continuous or regularly periodic collection and analysis of data and information in order to review progress in a project or activity. The purpose of monitoring is to signal any necessary adjustments that may be needed to ongoing implementation so that success is more assured.

Monitoring of Action Plan will focus on the progress and the achievements during the implementation of the Action Plan

Evaluation is systematically analysis towards and the achievement of an outcome. Following aspects will be considered during evaluation process:

- a. Suitability: whether the developed action plan is suitable with the identified capacity needs for the implementation of 3 Rio Conventions
- b. Progress: whether the Action Plan as scheduled
- c. Success: whether the Action Plan achieve the expected objectives

MONRE will has the main responsibility for the implementation of strategic action plans for 3 Conventions to ensure: (i) progress of project; (ii) effective mobilization of supports from related stakeholders and (iii) coordination among related stakeholders.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment shall be responsible to the Government to monitor and coordinate the activities under UNFCCC and UNCBD

MARD shall be responsible to the Government to monitor and coordinate the activities under UNFCCC and UNCBD

Provincial People Committees (PPCs), Departments of Natural Resource and Environment (DONREs), Department of Agriculture and Rural Development shall be responsible for cooperation to monitor the activities at provinces

Other related ministries/sectors shall be responsible for collaboration with MONRE and MARD for implementation and monitor of related activities

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MONRE



**Global
Environment
Facility**

**Vietnam's National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment
for Global Environmental Management
VIETNAM'S STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN FOR GLOBAL
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
(Final Draft)**



Prepared by: Viet Nam NCSA Team
Department of Environment
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Hanoi, June 2006

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BD	Biodiversity
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GHG	Green House Gas
ISGE	International Support Group for Natural Resources and Environment
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MEA	Multi Environmental Agreement
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign
MOFI	Ministry of Fishery
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment
PPC	Provincial People Commitees
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biodiversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VEPA	Viet Nam Protection Agency

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The project “National Self Capacity Assessment for Global Environmental Management” initiated in October 2004. The primary goal of the NCSA is to identify and determine the nature of critical capacity constraints and priority capacity needs faced by Vietnam with respect to the global environment taking into account the three Rio Conventions (UNCBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD) and associated thematic areas of biodiversity, climate change and desertification/ land degradation.

Viet Nam’s strategic action plan for global environmental management developed to respond the national capacity building needs for the implementation of UNFCCC, UNCBD and UNCCD.

Viet Nam has attained significant achievements for the implementation of 03 Rio Convention. Institutional and legal framework for the implementation of MEAs has been developed. Focal points for 03 Rio Conventions have been established. MONRE is the focal point for UNCBD and UNFCCC and MARD is the focal point for UNCCD. The focal point has the overall responsibilities which relates to the obligations of Parties of the Conventions and Protocols. Promotion and awareness enhancement also has attained significant achievements which identified as the priority task in the strategic documents of Viet Nam such as the Agenda 21, National Strategy for Environmental Protection until 2010 and vision toward 2020. Viet Nam has also invested in and development of a system of universities, research institutes on BD and natural resources, energy, forest protection and development, etc. Education and training also implemented through training course, workshop and information exchange. Scientific and technical researches and studies have been conducted in many years.

However, there are a lot of existing capacity constraints to fulfil the obligations of 3 Rio Conventions. Capacity constraints which relates to the implementation of UNCBD are as following: institutional and legal framework is incomplete; efficiency of conservation measures is not high; communication and awareness enhancement are not effective enough, information exchange is restricted, lack of suitable financial and investment mechanism for research and biodiversity conservation. Capacity constraints which relates to the implementation of UNFCCC are as following: institutional and legal framework is incomplete; research on measures to response and adapt with climate change is restricted; communication and awareness enhancement are not effective enough; development of the portfolio of potential projects and international cooperation are restricted. Capacity constraints which relates to the implementation of UNCCD are as following: institutional and legal framework is incomplete; lack of harmonization between conservation and development; capacity for natural resource management is restricted; lack of information system for planning,

monitoring and forecasting the desertification impacts; lack of technical cooperation for implementation of programmes/projects on combat desertification; lack of financial resources and the utilization of resources is not high.

In general, the cross-capacity constraints which relates with the implementation of three Conventions are as following: low knowledge and awareness on the 03 Conventions; development and implementation of policies, plans, programmes and projects related to the 03 Conventions are not effective; coordination between the related ministries, sectors, between central and local agencies is not strong enough; Information, data collection and management are still weak; the monitoring and assessment of the activity results are still formal

Viet Nam's strategic action plan for global environmental management are developed to strengthen the capacity for the implementation of MEAs or the capacity for global environmental management of Viet Nam

Ha Noi, June 2006

NCSA PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT

PART I – BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

1. The needs of capacity building for global environment management

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was adopted in May 1992, approved and came into force in March 1994. Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (KP) was approved by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP) at its third session in Kyoto, Japan on December 1997. UNFCCC was signed by Vietnam on 11st June 2002 and ratified on 16th November, 200. The 1997 Kyoto Protocol was signed by Vietnam on 3rd December 1998 and ratified on 25th September 2002. To achieve a more efficient global reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the Kyoto Protocol allows for several forms of cooperation referred to as “flexible mechanisms”: (i) Joint Implementation, (ii) Emission Trading and (iii) Clean Development Mechanism.

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) is one of the Rio Conventions approved at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) convened in Rio de Janeiro, Braxin in 1992. The UNCBD came into force in December 1993. The CBD was ratified by Vietnam on November 1994. The Republic of Vietnam also ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on 21st January 2004

The UN Convention to Combat Desertification was adopted on 17th June 1994, entered in force on 26th December 1996 and was ratified by the Republic of Vietnam on 25th August 1998.

The amount of GHG emission in Vietnam was at approximately 100-125 million tons CO₂ equivalent in 1993, 1994 and increased to 140-150 million tons CO₂ equivalent in 2002 and possibly higher for 1-2 years recently. For ten years from 1993-2002, GHG was emitted at the highest rate in agriculture, energy, forestry and land use. The above-mentioned changes in GHG emission amount for the ten-year-time proves that GHG emission amount increased quickly in energy, slightly in agriculture and dropped in forestry and land use.

Biological diversity sources have been seriously extracted and degraded and tends to be reduced quickly. Habitats of the wild animals and natural ecosystems have been being on the brink of extinct for recent years. The most significant threat for Vietnam’s biodiversity is the destruction of terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Vietnam’s aquatic ecosystems are some of the most vulnerable and endangered habitats. Forest logging along rivers and in flatlands, alternation of river flows, building of dams and hydropower plants have lead to drastic changes in natural processes. Overexploitation of species of agricultural significance (tree species, mushrooms, medicinal plants, snails, fish, large mammals, raptors and aquatic fowl) has negative impacts on many ecosystems, habitats and species. Examples of overexploitation include both legal and

illegal hunting and fishing, particularly of some large mammals and birds as well as the “managed reduction” of some populations of predators, in particular wolves and cormorants. The massive and unregulated introduction of alien plant and animal species (wild and cultivated) has already had a negative impact on the local species. This leads to irreversible loss of genetic diversity and to the threats for Vietnam’s sustainable development. One of the most serious threats to Vietnam’s biodiversity, however, is the logging of old forests. The decline in forest cover leads to irreversible loss of habitats and ecosystem functions. Hundreds of local plants and animals are threatened with extinction.

In Vietnam, according to the latest inventory, there is more than 9 million ha of unused land and water surface, of which large degraded barren hill areas have completely lost their biological productivity. Among the 21 million ha of in-use agricultural and forestland a considerable part has low fertility, yielding minor crops, especially the forestland. The main forms of desertification and land degradation in Vietnam include soil erosion, serious drought, sand moving along the coast, land Stalinization in the Mekong delta, and land sliding

In response to the above threats to the natural resources endowment in Vietnam in particular and to the global environment in general, a need exists for urgent and decisive measures for implementation of the Conventions and for prevention of negative impacts on the national economy and related trends and processes

2. Achievements to the implementation of 03 Rio Conventions in Viet Nam

Viet Nam has attained significant achievements for the implementation of 03 Rio Convention. Institutional framework for the implementation of MEAs has been developed. The strategies for environmental protection has been promulgated such as the National Orientation Strategy for Sustainable Development in Vietnam (Vietnam Agenda 21), National Strategy for Environmental Protection until 2010 and vision toward 2020 (2004), Strategy for Forestry development in 2001-2010 (2002); Strategy for Management of the Protected Area system during 2003-2010, GHG mitigation Strategy in Forestry Sector, Strategy for Development of Transport Sectors, etc. In addition, legal framework related to the implementation of the three Rio Conventions has been formed such as the Law on Environmental Protection (2005), Law on Forest Development and Protection (2004), Law on Land (2003), Law on Water Resources (1998), Law on Fishery, etc. which significant contributed for the implementation of MEAs in Viet Nam

Viet Nam has established focal points for 03 Rio Conventions: MONRE is the focal point for UNCBD and UNFCCC and MARD is the focal point for UNCCD. The focal point has the overall responsibilities which relates to the rights and obligations of Parties of the Conventions and Protocols.

The financial resources have been mobilized for the implementation of the MEAs, including the state budget and ODA sources.

Promotion and awareness enhancement also has attained significant achievements which identified as the priority task in the strategic documents of Viet Nam such as the Agenda 21, National Strategy for Environmental Protection until 2010 and vision toward 2020.

At present, Viet Nam has been implementing a programme of biological diversity awareness enhancement for 2001-2010. Viet Nam has also invested in and development of a system of universities, research institutes on BD and natural resources, energy, forest protection and development, etc. Education and training also implemented through training course, workshop and information exchange.

International Environmental Information Network (MERCURE/ UNEPNet) had been established and the Viet Nam Protection Agency (VEPA), MONRE is assigned to be directly responsible for supervision and management of Hanoi MERCURE Station which has been operating since the beginning of 1998. At the present, Viet Nam has been able to exploit, exchange and share information with all sources of environmental information globally.

In order to meet scientific and technical requirements specified in articles relating to science and scientific advisory of the Conventions, Viet Nam has conducted the inventory of biodiversity in national parks and protected areas. There have been many efforts in doing researches on species and rare fauna and flora species that have been in the brink of imminent extinction. BD inventory of traditional fauna and flora species has also been conducted. Viet Nam has also conduct the study on hydrometeorology, renewable energy, GHG emission inventory, forest resource inventory, etc.

3. Capacity constraints and capacity need for the implementation of 3 Rio Conventions

The thematic reports of 3 Rio Convention has analysed the capacity constraints and capacity building needs for each Convention. The 3 thematic reports also has identified 05 main issues which relates to all 3 Conventions as following:

(1) Low knowledge and awareness on the three Conventions

The important of promotion and enhancement of environmental awareness are mentioned in all three Conventions as a priority obligation to Convention joined members. In Vietnam, these activities have been conducted in many years with the purpose of increasing the knowledge and awareness of people on their role and responsibility on environmental protection in general and the implementation of the three Conventions in particular have also obtained some results. However,

environmental knowledge and awareness of officials and communities are still low. Environmental protection issues aren't considered as important issues, even is disregarded in comparison with socio-economic development activities.

(2) Development and implementation of policies, plans, programmes and projects related to the three Conventions aren't good so effectiveness and validity aren't high

The development and implementation of national policies, plans, programmes mentioned in all the three Conventions are essential requirement and obligation of each country. So far, in Vietnam, the development of national strategies, plans and programmes and legal framework (policies and laws) for implementation of the above three conventions has initial achievements. However, capacity related issue cross-cutting these Conventions is that quality, validity and effectiveness of the implementation of the provided national plans, programmes, legal framework is still restricted.

(3) Coordination between the related ministries, sectors, between central and local agencies is still ineffective

At the moment the coordination between the ministries, agencies and sectors at the central level, between the departments, agencies and sectors at the provincial/city levels, as well as between central and local levels and between localities is still ineffective. Meanwhile environmental problems are complicated with great impacts; therefore there should be an efficient cross-sectoral coordination mechanism if these problems are to be solved. This is also a challenge for the environmental management in general and the implementation of the Rio conventions in particular in Vietnam in the years to come.

(4) Information, data collection and management are still weak

This is cross-cutting issues which is not only relates to the three Conventions but also the common problem in other field in Vietnam. Currently, some information in the form of thematic reports, research works, scientific research themes, investigation projects, etc. were conducted by individuals and organizations funded by the Government, international organizations is scattered located in different offices without full statistics and effective use. The environmental monitoring stations are insufficient in number. The equipments currently are still not meeting a requirement of data survey and environmental monitoring. The hydro meteorological stations for climate change monitoring are relatively sufficient. However, the equipment of some stations isn't modern improved. Beside, the information sharing mechanism between relevant ministries/sectors, agencies are still constrained.

(5) The monitoring and assessment of the activity results are still formal

Up to now, the monitoring and assessment of the activity results of the three conventions in Vietnam have not been put into full play. For example, for UNCBD,

there has not been any comprehensive observation and assessment programme on biodiversity and biosafety. The only programme of this kind is for assessing the changes of forest resources in which only forest and forest resources (including terrestrial invertebrate and forest plants) and but the other biological resources are assessed. The assessment of this thematic area is insufficient and not update. Similar to this, for UNCCD, the monitoring and assessment are still spare, irregular and ineffective so that there has not been information, data system for monitoring and assessment.

The capacity needs to deal with the above 05 mentioned issues are presented in following Table.

Duties	Capacity Need		
	Systemic level	Institutional Level	Individual Level
Awareness and knowledge on 03 conventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop necessary mechanisms and policies to ensure benefits of community when participating in the environmental protection activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop, pilot and disseminate the models of economic development taking into account environmental protection activities. - Integrate environment protection activities of three Conventions to activities of socio-political organizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen capacity for communication staffs
Development and implementation of laws, policies, plans and programmes related to 03 conventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrate environmental issues and requirements (such as climate change, biodiversity conservation and prevention of land degradation) into the master plans and programmes to develop the national economy, at the same time, improving technology and technical abilities for implementing the programmes - Develop new laws (such as Biodiversity Law, Law on energy security, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further strengthen the management systems and capacity for the legal executive institutions by making the functions and responsibilities of these institutions clear. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop skills for policy planners and policy analyzers - Develop skills for managerial officials of national institutions, NGOs that relate to the use of resources.
The collaboration between relevant ministries and sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a coordination mechanism among relevant ministries, sectors, localities and institutions so as to implement the crosscutting actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen operation mechanism for 3 national focal points of 03 conventions. - Develop decentralization and supporting mechanism for localities. 	
Data collection and management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop regulations on information sharing and exchange between related 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop database system relating to 03 Conventions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen and enhance capacity for information

	stakeholders		analyzing and processing for staff of relevant sectors/organizations.
Monitoring and evaluation.	- Develop monitoring and evaluation plans for the performance of three Conventions	- Develop the system of environmental indicators for reports of environmental state and systematizing them by providing guidance on the implementation thereof from central to local levels.	- Enhance capacity for related stakeholder on monitoring and performance evaluation

PART II. VIETNAM'S STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN FOR GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Viet Nam is a member of almost MEAs with the respective obligations and rights. Fulfilment of obligations of the MEAs also means that the fulfilment of global environmental management. Following is the strategic action plan for global environmental management in 2006 – 2010 and vision to 2020.

1. Basic for development of strategic action plan

- Commitments of Viet Nam for fulfilment of obligations of multi Environmental Agreement (MEAs)
- Capacity building needs for global environmental management in 2006 – 2010 which has been recognized through the “National Self Capacity Assessment” process supported by UNDP and GEF

2. Strategic principles and orientations

2.1 National ownership and leadership: High degree of commitment from key players such as MONRE, MARD and the relevant line ministries to the capacity development process is critical for positive results. However, the government leadership with focal point as MONRE will be important aspects.

2.2. Multi-stakeholder consensus and decision-making: Capacity development decisions should involve multiple stakeholders and be derived from broad-based consensus to the extent possible. Consultative and participatory process is essential to foster broad-based consensus.

2.3. Holistic approach to capacity building: All dimensions – the systemic, the institutional and the individual – of capacity need attention. Therefore, there is a need to establish a good balance between all the three dimensions. Capacity development efforts must be linked to the broader environmental management and sustainable development needs as reflected in Vietnam's National Strategy for Environmental Protection until 2010 and Vision Toward 2020, Agenda 21 and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of Viet Nam.

2.4 Integration of capacity building in wider efforts to achieve sustainable development: Capacity development must be integrated with ongoing initiatives to enhance capacities for broader environmental managements and for sustainable development in general

2.5 Promotion of partnerships and collaboration: Capacity development efforts will require concerted effort that draws upon the comparative advantages of multiple stakeholders to maximize impact and create synergies.

2.6 Flexibility: Capacity development efforts should have the flexibility, without losing the focus of purpose, to respond to changing circumstances and needs. Adaptive management of resources for capacity development is essential to allow such flexibility.

3. Strategic objectives

3.1. Overall objective

The strategic action plan has been formulated with the overall objective to strengthen the systemic, institutional and individual capacities of Vietnam for effective implementation of the Rio Convention obligations consistent with national circumstances and needs for sustainable development

3.2. Specific objectives

(1) Enhance the awareness and knowledge of different levels, sectors and community on the obligations and rights of Viet Nam as a member of MEAs

(2) Strengthen capacity for development and implementation of policies, programmes and projects which relates to MEAs

(3) Develop the effective collaboration among related stakeholders for implementation of MEAs and establish the closely cooperation with the respective international organizations

(4) Enhance the application of IT for data management, the availability, accuracy of information which relates with MEAs and the connection of information system and database in the country with information and database in the world.

(5) Establish the effective result-based monitoring system for performance evaluation of 3 Rio Conventions.

4. Activities for achievement of strategic objectives

4.1. Activities for achievement of objective 1: Enhance the awareness and knowledge of different levels, sectors and community on the obligations and rights of Viet Nam as a member of MEAs

Order	Capacity Development Activity	Level of Priority	Implementation Timeframe	Responsible Institution(s)
1	Develop mass media communication programs on obligation and rights of Viet Nam as a member of MEAs	High	Midium-term	MONRE, MARD, MOE, mass-media organizations
2	Provide in-depth training for staffs of MEAs focal points	High	Short-term	MONRE, MEAs focal points
3	Integrate global environmental issues in cirriculum at all level	Medium	Long- term	MOE, MONRE, MARD, MOFA

	of Viet Nam			
4	Strengthen capacity for communication staffs who participate in the environmental communication activities	High	Short-term	MONRE, mass-media organizations

4.2. Activities for achievement of objective 2: Strengthen capacity for development and implementation of policies, programmes and projects which relates to MEAs

Order	Capacity Development Activity	Level of Priority	Implementation Timeframe	Responsible Institution(s)
1	Legalize the obligations for MEAs implementation in legal documents of Viet Nam	High	Short-term	MOJ, MOFA, MONRE, MARD and related Ministries/Sectors
2	Provide training on global environmental management and implementation of MEAs for staffs who is in charge of planning and implementing socio-economic development policies of Viet Nam	High	Long-term	MONRE and related Ministries/Sectors
3	Strengthen capacity, skills and knowledge of global environmental management for organizations who in charge of providing consultation, planning and implementing of policies, strategies, plans, programmes and projects for global environmental management of Viet Nam	Medium	Long-term	Related Ministries/Sectors and organizations

4.3. Activities for achievement of objective 3: Develop the effective collaboration among related stakeholders for implementation of MEAs and establish the closely cooperation with respective international organizations

Order	Capacity Development Activity	Level of Priority	Implementation Timeframe	Responsible Institution(s)
1	Establish national focal point who is responsible for coordination among MEAs' focal points	High	Short-term	MONRE, MARD, MOFA, Office of Government
2	Strengthen resources and operation mechanisms for focal points of each Convention	High	Long-term	MONRE, MARD, MOFA, Office of Government

4.4. Activities for achievement of objective 4: Enhance the application of IT for data management, the availability, accuracy of information which relates with MEAs and the connection of information system and database in the country with information and database in the world.

Order	Capacity Development Activity	Level of Priority	Implementation Timeframe	Responsible Institution(s)
1	Establish the mechanism for information gathering and exchange among Ministers/Sectors which relates with the implementation of MEAs	High	Medium term	MONRE and related Ministries/Sectors
2	Establish and maintain official channel for information exchanges among focal points of MEAs	High	Long-term	MONRE, MARD and related Ministries/Sectors
3	Develop database for MEAs	High	Long-term	Focal points of MEAs

4.5. Activities for achievement of objective 5: Establish the effective result-based monitoring system for performance evaluation of 3 Rio Conventions

Order	Capacity Development Activity	Level of Priority	Implementation Timeframe	Responsible Institution(s)
1	Develop evaluation criteria and manual to provide guidances for monitoring and evaluation of MEAs' implementation	High	Short-term	MONRE, MARD and related Ministries/Sectors
2	Equip the staffs who is responsible for monitoring and evaluation with the methodology for result-base evaluation	High	Medium-term	MONRE, MARD and related Ministries/Sectors

5. Resource Mobilization and Sustainability Strategy

Based on the proposed strategic action plan, MONRE, MARD and related Ministers/Sectors will develop the specific projects for priority capacity needs to mobilize the resources from Vietnamese government, GEF and potential sponsors in the area of capacity building for environmental protection. The budget could be mobilized from following sources:

5.1. State budget

Article 111 of Law on Environmental Protection has defined that the state budget for environmental protection shall be used for the following purposes: (a) investment in the development of public environmental protection infrastructures; (b) regular expenditure for environmental governance which consists of appropriate rates

for strengthening national capacity for environmental management integrated with capacity for implementation of MEAs; as a co-finance for projects on strengthening capacity for global environmental management.

5.2. Viet Nam Environmental Protection Fund

Viet Nam Environmental Fund is a state financial organization with function to provide funds for environmental protection activities. The Fund was established under the Decision number 82/2002/QĐ-TTg dated 26th June 2002 of Prime Minister. The MONRE is responsible for management of the fund according to the Decree No 91/2002/ND-CP dated 11th November 2002 of Government.

Viet Nam Environmental Protection Fund serve as financial sources for programs/projects, activities, tasks for environmental protection in the whole countries and also has priority policy to support the projects/programs for strengthening global environmental management mentioned in Part IV of the Strategy.

5.3. GEF Support

Global Environmental Facility (GEF) provide fund to projects and programs that protect the global environment. This fund can be exploited to strengthen global environmental management capacity of Viet Nam. Viet Nam has also committed to utilize the appropriate fund of Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) for implementation of projects on strengthening national capacity for global environmental management

5.4. Support from international organizations and other countries governments

The resources for strengthening national capacity for global environmental management of Viet Nam can be mobilized through the ISGE and the multilateral and bilateral forums. It is a potential resource since the sponsored projects of international organizations in Viet Nam always have the component for strengthening capacity for environmental management.

6. Monitoring and evaluation of the Action Plan implementation

Monitoring is a process of continuous or regularly periodic collection and analysis of data and information in order to review progress in a project or activity. The purpose of monitoring is to signal any necessary adjustments that may be needed to ongoing implementation so that success is more assured.

Monitoring of Action Plan will focus on the progress and the achievements during the implementation of the Action Plan

Evaluation is systematically analysis towards and the achievement of an outcome. Following aspects will be considered during evaluation process:

- a. Suitability: whether the developed action plan is suitable with the identified capacity needs for the implementation of 3 Rio Conventions
- b. Progress: whether the Action Plan as scheduled
- c. Success: whether the Action Plan achieve the expected objectives

MONRE will has the main responsibility for the implementation of strategic action plans for 3 Conventions to ensure: (i) progress of project; (ii) effective mobilization of supports from related stakeholders and (iii) coordination among related stakeholders.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment shall be responsible to the Government to monitor and coordinate the activities under UNFCCC and UNCBD

MARD shall be responsible to the Government to monitor and coordinate the activities under UNFCCC and UNCBD

Provincial People Commitees (PPCs), Departments of Natural Resource and Environment (DONREs), Department of Agriculture and Rural Development shall be responsible for cooperation to monitor the activities at provinces

Other related ministries/sectors shall be responsible for collaboration with MONRE and MARD for implementation and monitor of related activities

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